

Oil reserve to be tapped
Biden orders release of 1 million barrels per day from strategic reserve. **News, Page 4**

Pence running in 2024?
Former VP unveils policy agenda ahead of possible presidential run. **News, Page 6**

Mark hits 40-year high
Inflation gauge watched closely by the Fed at highest point in 40 years. **News, Page 8**

Mixed clouds and sun
Breezy; chance of a morning shower; high 56. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant



VOLUME CLXXXVI

COURANT.COM

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russians abandon Chernobyl

END OF GLOBALIZATION: Russia's invasion of Ukraine has delivered a blow to a free flow of trade. Prices, which had already been rising, have shot up further. Supply chains, already disrupted by the swift recovery from the pandemic recession, face renewed pressure, darkening the global picture. **Page 5**

Combat continues in suburbs of Kyiv; buses head to Mariupol in new bid to evacuate the port city

By **Nebi Qena** and **Yuras Karmanau**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian troops handed control of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant back to the Ukrainians and began leaving the

heavily contaminated site more than a month after taking it over, authorities said Thursday, as fighting raged on the outskirts of Kyiv and other fronts.

Ukraine's state power company, Energoatom, said the pullout at Chernobyl came after soldiers

received "significant doses" of radiation from digging trenches in the forest in the exclusion zone around the closed plant. But there was no independent confirmation of that.

The withdrawal took place amid growing indications the Kremlin is using talk of de-escalation in Ukraine as cover while regrouping, resupplying its forces and redeploying them for a stepped-up

offensive in the eastern part of the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine is seeing "a buildup of Russian forces for new strikes on the Donbas, and we are preparing for that."

Meanwhile, a convoy of buses headed to Mariupol in another bid to evacuate people from the

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2



Apartments are planned for the building at 200 Constitution Plaza in downtown Hartford. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

'A Manhattan feel'

By **Kenneth R. Gosselin** | Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — More apartments could be on the way for Constitution Plaza in downtown Hartford, another boost to the nearly decade-long boom in rental construction in the city.

An estimated \$18 million proposal would convert the long-vacant, former Travelers Education Center at 200 Constitution Plaza into 101 apartments, adding to the 190 rentals created in the redevelopment of the former Sonesta Hotel on the plaza in 2015. The developers — Biagio Barone of Stratford-based Barone Properties and John Guedes of Primrose Cos., based in Bridgeport — have been active for years in redevelopment projects in Fairfield County. This would be their first venture in Hartford. Barone said he and Guedes first visited the building about four months ago while it was being marketed for office space.

Turn to Complex, Page 3

\$1,600

The planned average monthly rent in the Constitution Plaza complex will be \$1,600. The apartments will be a mix of 49 studios, 28 two-bedrooms and 24 one-bedrooms, and they will average 950 square feet.

Program expands nursing pipeline

New partnership with state colleges aims to end shortage

By **Eliza Fawcett**
Hartford Courant

Amid a nationwide shortage in nurses, Yale New Haven Health officials Thursday announced a new initiative to partner with four colleges and universities in Connecticut to expand the state's pipeline for careers in nursing.

Over the next four years, the health system will commit \$1.7 million per year to increase opportunities for students at Fairfield University, Gateway Community College, Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University to pursue careers in nursing. From 2022 to 2026, the partnerships aim to produce at least 557 additional graduates of nursing programs.

The partnership comes at a time when hospitals in Connecticut and many other states have struggled to fill nursing positions, as the nation's health care system confronts a severe workforce shortage worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We couldn't have known back in 2019 that our nurses would bear witness to the deaths of almost a million individuals throughout the United States because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Meredith Wallace Kazer, the dean of Fairfield University's Egan

Turn to Nurses, Page 3

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bueckers honors where she came from and the Black women who got her here



Dom Amore

MINNEAPOLIS — Paige Bueckers stood before the large audience in Las Vegas last July, apologizing for her unsteadiness as she was just getting over ankle

surgery, and delivered a two-minute speech that left no doubt who she was and from where she was coming.

"I'm just a small-town kid with really big dreams," she said, holding the ESPY award for top college athlete in the country.

Some of those dreams could be symbolized by the sprawling Gatorade ad, a mural at the nearby Mall of America. The small-town kid who came

home with her UConn women's basketball teammates to play for the national championship has become larger than life.

"Interest in this event increased by about 300 times when we found out she was coming," a longtime Twin Cities scribe told me.

But Bueckers' dreams are larger still and concern far more

Turn to Bueckers, Page 3



UConn's Paige Bueckers claps during a practice session Thursday ahead of the Final Four in Minneapolis. **ERIC GAY/AP**

State's positivity rate at highest level in a month

Connecticut's COVID-19 test positivity rate stands at its highest level in more than a month, as the BA.2 subvariant accounts for a growing share of the new cases. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion.....**News, 10**
Obituaries.....**News, 12**
Lottery.....**News, 2**
Classified.....**News, 11**

Puzzles ... **Connecticut, 7, 9**
Comics ... **Connecticut, 8-9**

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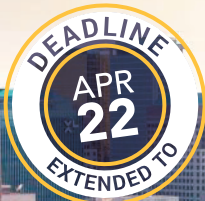
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FROM PAGE ONE

Ukraine

from Page 1

besieged port city after the Russian military agreed to a limited cease-fire in the area. And a new round of talks was scheduled for Friday, five weeks into the war that has left thousands dead and driven more than 4 million Ukrainians from the country.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said it had been informed by Ukraine that the Russian forces at the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster had transferred control of it in writing to the Ukrainians.

Ukraine reported that three convoys of Russian forces had left toward Belarus, while the remaining troops were apparently planning to leave too, the agency said.

Energoatom gave no details on the condition of the soldiers it said were exposed to radiation and did not say how many were affected.

There was no immediate comment from the Kremlin, and the IAEA said it had not been able to confirm the reports of Russian troops receiving high doses. It said it was seeking more information.

Russian forces seized the Chernobyl site in the opening stages of the Feb. 24 invasion, raising fears that they would cause damage or disruption that could spread radiation.

The workforce at the site oversees the safe storage of spent fuel rods and the concrete-entombed ruins of the reactor that exploded in 1986.

Earlier this week, the Russians said they would significantly scale back military operations in areas around Kyiv and the northern city of Chernihiv to increase trust between the two sides and help negotiations along.

But in the Kyiv suburbs, regional governor Oleksandr Palviuk said on social media Thursday that Russian forces shelled



A refugee runs toward her child after soldiers helped them on Thursday near Kyiv, Ukraine. RONALDO SCHEMIDT/GETTY-APP

Irpin and Makariv and that there were battles around Hostomel. Pavliuk said there were Ukrainian counterattacks and some Russian withdrawals around the suburb of Brovary to the east.

Chernihiv came under attack as well.

At least one person was killed and four were wounded in the Russian shelling of a humanitarian convoy of buses sent to Chernihiv to evacuate residents cut off from food, water and other supplies,

said Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner Lyudmyla Denisova

Ukraine also reported Russian artillery barrages in and around the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said intelligence indicates Russia is not scaling back its military operations in Ukraine but is instead trying to regroup, resupply its forces and reinforce its offensive in the Donbas.

"Russia has repeatedly lied about its intentions,"

Stoltenberg said. At the same time, he said, pressure is being kept up on Kyiv and other cities, and "we can expect additional offensive actions bringing even more suffering."

The Donbas is the predominantly Russian-speaking industrial region where Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian forces since 2014.

In the past few days, the Kremlin, in a seeming shift in its war aims, said that its "main goal" now

is gaining control of the Donbas, which consists of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including Mariupol.

The top rebel leader in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, issued an order to set up a rival city government for Mariupol, according to Russian state news agencies, in a sign of Russian intent to hold and administer the city.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that conditions weren't yet "ripe" for a cease-fire and that he

wasn't ready for a meeting with Zelenskyy until negotiators do more work, Italian Premier Mario Draghi said after a telephone conversation with the Russian leader.

As Western officials search for clues about what Russia's next move might be, a top British intelligence official said demoralized Russian soldiers in Ukraine are refusing to carry out orders and sabotaging their equipment and had accidentally shot down their own aircraft.

Hartford Courant

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Published daily and Sunday by The Hartford Courant Company (ISSN 1047-4153). Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster send address changes to: The Hartford Courant, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569. Home delivery rates: Daily and Sunday (7 days), \$17.99; *Thursday through Sunday (4 days) \$13.99; *Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3 days) \$12.50; Thursday and Sunday (2 days) \$10.50; Sunday-only service \$8.99, includes the Thanksgiving paper; Sunday through Friday (6 days) \$12.25; Monday through Friday (5 days) \$12.50; Monday through Saturday (6 days) \$11.58. All subscriptions may include up to 12 premium issues per year. For each premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$5.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/10/21, 2/14/21, 3/28/21, 4/18/21, 5/16/21, 6/13/21, 7/11/21, 8/8/21, 9/5/21, 10/10/21, 11/21/21, 12/19/21. Dates are subject to change without notice. *Service not available in all areas. Rates may vary based on subscription length. Vacation stops do not extend expiration dates. We may increase home delivery rates with 15 days notice. The Hartford Courant reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement. Only publication of the advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertisement. The Hartford Courant shall not be responsible for the omission, in whole or in part, of any advertisement or for any typographical or other error. The Hartford Courant's liability shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the first insertion only. In no event shall The Hartford Courant be liable for consequential damages of any kind.


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LOTTERY

Thursday, March 31

PLAY3 DAY

7 3 1 WB: 3

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

0 5 6 WB: 5

PLAY4 NIGHT

4 0 8 3 WB: 0

CASH 5

5 16 26 28 29

LUCKY FOR LIFE

5 37 38 46 48 LB: 9

POWERBALL

3 7 21 31 37 PB: 11 PP: 3

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Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$70M

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$222M

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Alex Jones agrees to appear at deposition in Sandy Hook case

Associated Press

HARTFORD — Infowars host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones has agreed to appear at a deposition in Connecticut to answer questions in a lawsuit by relatives of some of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims, his lawyers said Thursday, a day after a judge ordered fines against Jones for defying orders to attend a deposition last week despite his claim of illness.

Jones will sit for a deposition April 11 and is asking the judge to put a hold on the daily fines, according to new court filings by his attorney, Norman Pattis. The fines begin at \$25,000 on Friday and increase

by \$25,000 each weekday he does not appear for questioning.

Pattis also asked the Connecticut Supreme Court on Thursday to hear an appeal against the fines. There were no immediately rulings on Jones' requests.

Lawyers for the Sandy Hook families, who are suing Jones for defamation for calling the 2012 school shooting a hoax, had no immediate comment. Twenty first graders and six educators were killed in the massacre in Newtown, Connecticut.

Connecticut Judge Barbara Bellis found the Austin, Texas, resident liable for damages to the families in November. A trial on how much he should pay them is set for later

this year.

Bellis on Wednesday found Jones in contempt of court and imposed a fine of up to \$50,000 a day for what she called his "willful" violation of her orders that he submit to questioning at a deposition by families of victims of the Sandy Hook School killings.

After a series of delays, Jones failed to comply last week with repeated orders by Bellis that he appear for a deposition on March 23 and 24 in Austin, Texas, where his internet broadcasting company is located. Relatives of the children murdered in the 2012 school shooting in Newtown have been trying for years to question him in connection with their suit filed in response

to his broadcast assertions that the shootings were a hoax.

Jones claimed he was unable to sit for the deposition because of a health condition that is aggravated by stress. But Bellis said medical explanations by two of Jones' physicians were unconvincing. She said there is evidence that, even though Jones' legal team said he was at home under medical care, he actually was broadcasting during the times the depositions had been scheduled and told his audience his condition was caused by a sinus blockage.

"With respect to the question of contempt, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant Alex Jones, willfully and

in bad faith, violated without justification several clear court orders requiring his attendance at his depositions on March 23 and 24," Bellis said in court.

Jones' lawyer Cameron Atkins told Bellis his client has always been willing to be deposed and his absence was based only on medical advice. The only possible impediment Atkins mentioned could be a conflict between a requirement by the victims' law firm, Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, that visitors wear masks because of the coronavirus pandemic and Jones' refusal to wear one.

Reporting by Edmund H. Mahony is included in this story.



The long-vacant building at 200 Constitution Plaza, center, could be converted into 100 apartments. The former Sonesta Hotel, right, was converted into the 190-unit Spectra Plaza apartments in 2015. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Complex

from Page 1

"We thought this was just screaming residential, just the setting," Barone said. "It has a Manhattan feel to it."

Barone said the partners have an option to purchase the 135,000-square-foot property from its current owners, LHR Group and BHN Properties, of New York. LHR and BHN own the majority of the plaza, including the office towers at One and 100 Constitution Plaza.

Financing could include a low-cost, state-taxpayer backed loan from the Capital Region Development Authority, plus private funding. The proposed amount of the CRDA loan has not yet been determined, Barone said.

The apartment plan is expected to be first presented to a subcommittee of the CRDA's board of directors Friday. The full CRDA board would have to approve any financing.

If financing were secured, Barone and Guedes could start the project this summer, with construction taking a year to 18 months.

The apartments would be a mix of 49 studios, 28 two-bedrooms and 24 one-bedrooms. The units would average 950 square feet

with rents that average \$1,600 a month, according to Barone.

Even with 2,700 apartments added or now under construction in and around downtown Hartford in the last decade, Barone said he and Guedes believe there is still plenty of room for more rentals. The strong overall occupancy of new apartment projects downtown — in the mid-90s or higher — provides compelling evidence, Barone said.

The shift toward apartment living by millennials also bodes well for the rental market. The lack of single-family houses for sale in greater Hartford, plus rising interest rates that could make buying a house less attractive, Barone said.

Barone said the plans call primarily for market-rate apartments but he expects there to be a component of "affordable" units. The plans.

The developers plan to retain a 120-seat amphitheater now in the building as part of the renovation.

"We're going to keep that intact and add a couple of conference rooms and some office areas, and address that need for people still working from home," Barone said. "They might need an office for a few days, kind of like a WeWork set up."

Barone said people are going

back to the workplace, "but we are seeing on Fridays and Mondays, they are staying home a little bit more."

"So that probably is going to stay on for years to come," Barone said.

Barone and Guedes now are working together on a two apartment projects in Shelton, totaling 122 units. Separately, Guedes bought the former Holiday Inn in Bridgeport and has plans to convert it into 100 apartments.

Constructed in 1986, Travelers vacated the building in 2011 after a 25-year lease expired. The building was later foreclosed on and subsequently purchased by Trinity College for \$2 million. Trinity had intended to use the five-story building for a downtown satellite campus, but later sold to the current owners for \$2.6 million. The college found it didn't need to own that much space downtown choosing instead to lease space elsewhere.

CRDA's loans and equity investments in Hartford have primarily focused on conversion of older, often vacant commercial buildings for apartments.

"Certainly in this case, this building's been without a purpose, frankly — it's been empty better than 10 years," Michael W. Freimuth, CRDA's executive director, said. "Look, if there's a commer-

cial building downtown that you can point to that needs reuse, this is the one. It fits into the mode of what we have done in the past."

Freimuth said the conversion of the former Sonesta Hotel into the Spectra Plaza apartments has been particularly successful, its occupancy consistently in the mid-90s or higher, part of its attraction being its amenities, which include a half-court basketball gym.

Housing was envisioned for Constitution Plaza when it was planned in the 1950s, especially because the massive redevelopment project replaced the Front Street neighborhood that once existed there.

Those plans were scrapped in the early 1960s in an economic downturn, turning the area into an urban office park that lacked "off-hours" vibrancy and unable to support shops and restaurants — an atmosphere that persisted for decades.

The late 1990s saw a renewed push for more housing throughout the downtown Hartford area to boost the 24/7 vibrancy central business district, an effort that continues today.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Bueckers

from Page 1

than herself.

The opportunities that come with being one of the most recognized athletes in America mean far more than monetizing her name, image and likeness.

"The life I have now as a white woman in a Black-led sport, I want to show a light on Black women," she said during her ESPYs speech. "They don't get the coverage they deserve."

As Bueckers shouted out to the Black women in her life from the ESPYs stage, Tara Starks, back in Buecker's hometown of Hopkins, Minnesota, felt the power of those words well up in her eyes. Bueckers was in fifth grade when Starks spotted her and invited her to play with older kids on her AAU team.

"I know that I'm a Black woman who has been a huge part of her life, so when she did that speech it really touched me because she speaks up for things that no one else will speak up for," Starks said. "And part of it is because of experience and the things that she's been around and the things she has seen."

"It brought me to tears to see her say, 'Hey, Black women do not get the attention they deserve.' I felt a small part of that was including me."

Starks is also the coach at Hopkins High, where Bueckers played. Her daughter, T'Aire Starks, is launching a coaching career as a graduate assistant at UConn.

"She's like a mother figure in my life," Bueckers said. "She has been my coach since fourth or fifth grade. We've been through a lot together. She was the one who got on me first. She's been my coach for forever, but we're more like family now."

"She's super hard on me



Paige Bueckers and her AAU and Hopkins High School coach Tara Starks. TARA STARKS/COURTESY

because she loves me. We love each other and have mutual trust, a really good bond.

"She deserves a lot of attention and credit for what she's doing and what she's done her whole coaching career. She doesn't get the attention and credit she deserves. All the powerful and wonderful Black women in my life deserve that attention."

"She's definitely a reason for that speech. There are a lot of people and reasons I decided to make that speech, but her and the other women in my life were a huge reason behind it."

Bueckers' words resonated far beyond Minnesota and the people who have coached her.

"I'm going to say this," South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley said. "She's not a child, but children and old people, they speak truth to power. And if Paige recognizes it, she's got a powerful voice in our game."

"If they haven't listened to some of the older coaches, the legendary people, let's hope they listen to Paige and adhere to her words because they hold true. When opportunities happen, I

get to sit here and talk to you and represent women's basketball on the biggest stage, and I am a Black woman."

Upon Bueckers' return to the Minneapolis area, she immediately jumped into local causes. Win or lose in the national semifinals against Stanford on Friday night, Bueckers plans to host a free pop-up supermarket that will distribute 6,000 free meals to students with food-security issues, partnering with Chegg, an educational platform, and Goodr, a firm that provides hunger relief.

"Paige cares a lot about a lot of things, not just basketball," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "She cares about her teammates. A lot of the things she gets, she makes sure that they get."

"That speech, I think it reflects her background, how she grew up, her family dynamics. And in today's world I think it's pretty remarkable that young people have a perspective that goes beyond themselves and their sport. They're very conscious of what's going on around the world and what impact they can have on it. And she has the platform to

act on it."

Bueckers, still seven months away from turning 21, has a grasp of the power of her words and gestures. It's why, even as a high school player, she never let a youngster seeking an autograph walk away without one.

"She's a normal kid, she's a cool kid," Starks said. "The little kids look at her as some kind of superhero. The other people, her peers, they look at her like, 'That's my homegirl. That's my friend.'"

"The first thing she wants to do when she gets here is hang out with her buddies, hang out with the people that she's played with. She has time for everyone."

Bueckers doesn't forget the people who helped her get here, and they don't forget her. As she returned from her knee surgery and struggled for weeks to find her game, Tara Starks was watching.

"My daughter called me [before the Indiana game last week] and said, 'Can you talk to Paige? She's not shooting the ball. Coach is telling her to shoot it and she's not shooting it,'" Starks said. "I texted her, and I said, 'Hey, I know your legs are not under you and you're not as strong as you usually would be and you're not 100 percent, but the one thing I know you're capable of is you can knock down open shots. Shoot the ball, don't stop shooting, shoot till you get hot.'"

With the Bridgeport Regional final in overtime Monday and the chance to play in a Final Four 8 miles from the house she grew up in jeopardy, Bueckers got hot and led the Huskies here.

"I was sitting on the edge of the couch and I'm hollering at the TV," Starks said. "Come on, kid, take over. I knew then she wanted to get back home."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

Nurses

from Page 1

School of Nursing & Health Studies, said during a press briefing at Yale New Haven Hospital.

"We couldn't have known that the pandemic would catapult a nursing shortage into a nursing and healthcare crisis," she said.

Yet despite the workforce shortages, nursing programs in Connecticut have been limited in the number of students they can accept due to a lack of adequate faculty and clinical placements, said Beth Beckman, chief nursing executive of Yale New Haven Health.

The intensity of the pandemic has not deterred aspiring nurses from the profession, university officials said, but in fact has resulted in a surge of demand for nursing programs.

Gateway's nursing program, for instance, typically receives about 400 applications for just 96 spots, said division Director of Nursing and Allied Health Sheila Solernau.

"There are many, many qualified students out that are not getting into nursing programs and really want to be in one," she said.

The newly-announced partnerships are poised not only to expand the number of nursing students who graduate in Connecticut, but also create a pipeline of qualified candidates for careers at Yale New Haven Health.

Beckman noted that those 500 additional nurses represent enough healthcare workers to staff an average-sized hospital.

At Gateway Community College, the partnership will enable an expansion of its nursing program, which will enroll 128 students this fall, Solernau said. In turn, Yale New Haven Health will fund faculty positions and student scholarships.

"Many [Gateway students] are single parents and first-generation college students, struggling to make ends meet as they pursue their education," she said.

"It's amazing and heartwarming to see how these lives are transformed by entering the nursing profession and gaining financial stability."

Quinnipiac University aims to increase its accelerated second-degree nursing program by 25% this August, said Lisa O'Connor, the dean of the School of Nursing. Yale New Haven Health will front the cost of the expansion by funding lab supplies and equipment, additional nursing faculty and scholarships for students.

At Fairfield University's School of Nursing, the new funding will strengthen its existing 15-month nursing program, enabling students to apply to obtain clinical experiences and potential careers at YNHHS, Kazer said, with scholarships included in the program.

Supported by YNHHS funding, Southern Connecticut State University will now offer an early college nursing program that will mentor regional high school students as they complete nursing prerequisite courses, said Sandra Bulmer, the dean of the College of Health and Human Services. Through the program, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing in three years, "with substantial scholarship support."

SCSU also will offer a part-time nursing degree program, aimed at creating a pipeline for nursing assistants and other entry-level healthcare workers to become nurses, Bulmer said. And next month, the university will open a new 94,000 square-foot building for the health and human services disciplines.

"This partnership with the Yale New Haven Health system allows us to greatly expand access to nursing programs, which traditionally have turned away far too many qualified students," she said, noting that nearly every graduate of SCSU's nursing programs chooses to live and work in Connecticut after graduation.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Biden taps US strategic oil reserve

President hints price for gallon of gasoline to dip 10 to 35 cents

By Zeke Miller and Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday ordered the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve for six months, a bid to control energy prices that have spiked after the United States and allies imposed steep sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The president said it was not known how much gasoline prices could decline as a result of his move, but he suggested it might be "anything from 10 cents to 35 cents a gallon."

Gas is averaging \$4.23 a gallon, compared with \$2.87 a year ago, according to AAA.

"The bottom line is if we want lower gas prices we need to have more oil supply right now," Biden said. "This is a moment of consequence and peril for the world, and pain at the pump for American families."

Biden also wants Congress to impose financial penalties on oil and gas companies that lease public lands but are not producing. He said he will invoke the Defense Production Act to encourage the mining of critical minerals for batteries in electric vehicles, part of a broader push to shift toward cleaner energy sources and reduce the use of fossil fuels.

The actions show that oil remains a vulnerability for the United States. Higher prices have hurt Biden's



President Biden addresses his plan Thursday to release 1 million barrels of oil per day. LEIGH VOGEL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

approval domestically and added billions of oil-export dollars to the Russian government as it wages war on Ukraine.

Tapping the stockpile would create pressures that could reduce oil prices, though Biden has twice ordered releases from the reserves without causing a meaningful shift in oil markets. Biden said that Thursday he expects gasoline prices could drop "fairly significantly."

Part of Biden's concern is that high prices have not so far coaxed a meaningful jump in oil production. The planned release is a way to increase supplies as a bridge until oil companies ramp up their own production, with administration officials estimating that

domestic production will grow by 1 million barrels daily this year and an additional 700,000 barrels daily in 2023.

The markets reacted quickly with crude oil prices dropping about 6% in trading to roughly \$101 a barrel. Still, oil is up from roughly \$60 a year ago, with supplies failing to keep up with demand as the world economy has begun to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic. That inflationary problem was compounded by Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, which created new uncertainties about oil and natural gas supplies and led to retaliatory sanctions from the U.S. and its allies.

Stewart Glickman, an oil analyst for CFRA Research,

said the release would bring short-term relief on prices and would be akin to "taking some Advil for a headache."

But markets would look to see whether, after the releases stop, the underlying problems that led to Biden's decisions remain.

"The root cause of the headache is probably still going to be there after the medicine wears off," Glickman said.

Biden has been in talks with allies and partners to join in additional releases of oil, such that the world market will get more than the 180 million barrels total being pledged by the U.S.

Americans on average use about 21 million barrels of oil daily, with about 40% of that devoted to gasoline, according to the U.S. Energy

Information Administration. That total accounts for about one-fifth of total global consumption of oil.

Domestic oil production is equal to more than half of U.S. usage, but high prices have not led companies to return to their pre-pandemic levels of output. The U.S. is producing on average 11.7 million barrels daily, down from 13 million barrels in early 2020.

Republican lawmakers have said the problem results from the administration being hostile to oil permits and the construction of new pipelines. Democrats say the country needs to move to renewable energy such as wind and solar that could reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and Putin's leverage.

The administration says increasing oil output is a gradual process and the release would provide time to ramp up production. It also wants to incentivize greater production by putting fees on unused leases on government lands, something that would require congressional approval.

Oil producers have been more focused on meeting the needs of investors than consumers, according to a survey released last week by the Dallas Federal Reserve. About 59% of the executives surveyed said investor pressure to preserve "capital discipline" amid high prices was the reason they weren't pumping more, while fewer than 10% blamed government regulation.

In his remarks, Biden tried to shame oil companies that he said are focused on profits instead of putting out more barrels, saying that adding to the oil supply was a patriotic obligation.

"This is not the time to sit on record profits: It's time to step up for the good of your country," the president said.

The steady release from the reserves would be a meaningful sum and come near to closing the domestic production gap relative to February 2020, before the coronavirus caused a steep decline in oil output.

Still, the politics of oil are complicated with industry advocates and environmentalists both criticizing the planned release.

Groups such as the American Petroleum Institute want to make drilling easier, while environmental organizations say energy companies should be forced to pay a special tax on windfall profits instead.

Scientists finish building complete human genome

Effort likely to lead to clearer picture of evolution, biology

By Laura Ungar
Associated Press

Scientists say they have finally assembled the full genetic blueprint for human life, adding the missing pieces to a puzzle nearly completed two decades ago.

An international team described the first-ever sequencing of a complete human genome — the set of instructions to build and sustain a human being — in research published Thursday in the journal Science. The previous effort was incomplete because DNA sequencing technologies of the day weren't able to read certain parts of it. Even after updates, it was missing about 8% of the genome.

"Some of the genes that make us uniquely human were actually in this 'dark matter of the genome' and they were totally missed," said Evan Eichler, a University of Washington researcher who participated in the current effort and the original Human Genome Project. "It took 20-plus years, but we finally got it done."

Scientists said this full

picture of the genome will give humanity a greater understanding of our evolution and biology while also opening the door to medical discoveries in areas like aging, neurodegenerative conditions, cancer and heart disease.

"We're just broadening our opportunities to understand human disease," said Karen Miga, an author of one of the six studies published Thursday.

The research caps off decades of work. The first draft of the human genome was announced in a White House ceremony in 2000.

The human genome is made up of about 3.1 billion DNA subunits, pairs of chemical bases known by the letters A, C, G and T. Genes are strings of these lettered pairs that contain instructions for making proteins, the building blocks of life. Humans have about 30,000 genes, organized in 23 groups called chromosomes that are found in the nucleus of every cell.

Before now, there were "large and persistent gaps that have been in our map, and these gaps fall in pretty important regions," Miga said.

Miga, a genomics researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz,

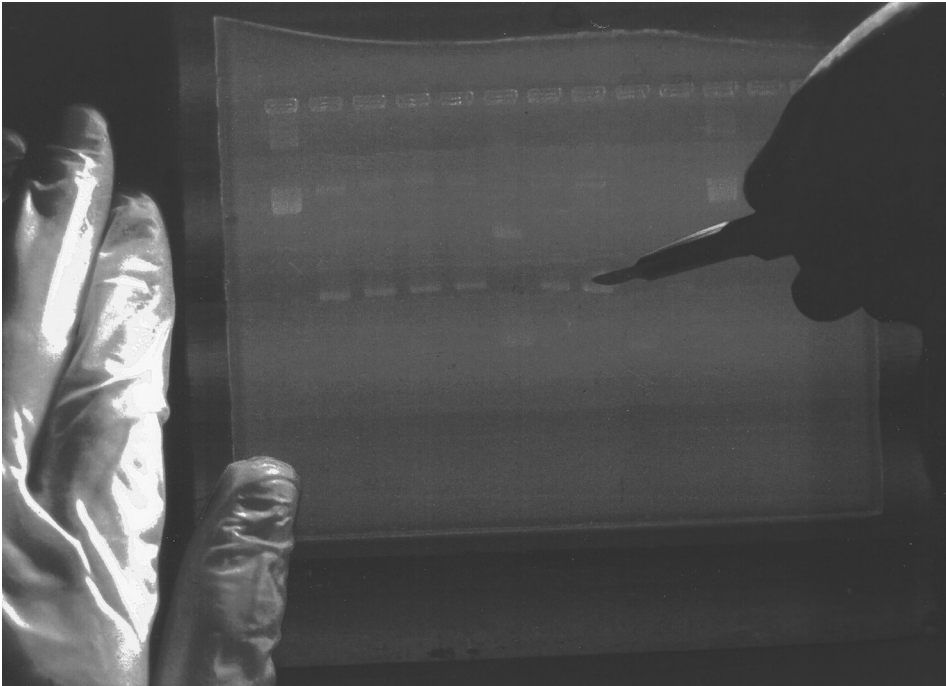
worked with Adam Philippi of the National Human Genome Research Institute to organize the team of scientists to start from scratch with a new genome with the aim of sequencing all of it. The group, named after the sections at the very ends of chromosomes, called telomeres, is known as the Telomere-to-Telomere, or T2T, consortium.

Their work adds new genetic information to the human genome, corrects previous errors and reveals long stretches of DNA known to play important roles in evolution and disease. A version of the research was published last year before being reviewed by scientific peers.

"This is a major improvement, I would say, of the Human Genome Project," doubling its impact, said geneticist Ting Wang of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who was not involved in the research.

Eichler said some scientists used to think unknown areas contained "junk." Not him. "Some of us always believed there was gold in those hills," he said.

Turns out that "gold" includes many important genes, he said, such as ones integral to making a person's



In published research, scientists say they've assembled the full genetic blueprint for human life, adding missing pieces to a puzzle nearly completed two decades ago. Above, a researcher examines output from a DNA sequencer. NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE

brain bigger than a chimp's, with more neurons and connections.

To find such genes, scientists needed new ways to read life's cryptic genetic language.

Reading genes requires cutting the strands of DNA into pieces hundreds to thousands of letters long. Sequencing machines read the letters in each piece and scientists try to put the pieces in the right order. That's especially tough in areas where letters repeat.

Scientists said some areas were illegible before improvements in gene-sequencing machines that

now allow them to, for example, accurately read a million letters of DNA at a time. That allows scientists to see genes with repeated areas as longer strings instead of snippets that they had to later piece together.

Researchers also had to overcome another challenge: Most cells contain genomes from both mother and father, confusing attempts to assemble the pieces correctly. T2T researchers got around this by using a cell line from one "complete hydatidiform mole," an abnormal fertilized egg containing no fetal tissue that has two copies of

the father's DNA and none of the mother's.

The next step was mapping more genomes, including ones that include collections of genes from both parents. This effort did not map one of the 23 chromosomes that is found in males, called the Y chromosome, because the mole contained only an X.

Wang said he's working with the T2T group on the Human Pangenome Reference Consortium, which is trying to generate "reference," or template, genomes for 350 people representing the breadth of human diversity.

US passports to allow 'X' as gender marker, State Dept. says

By Aishvarya Kavi
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration Thursday announced several measures intended to make federal forms of identification, applications for federal programs and travel documents more inclusive for Americans who identify as transgender or nonbinary, or who otherwise do not conform to traditional gender roles. One long-awaited change

will give Americans the option of indicating their gender with an "X" on passports starting April 11.

The plan was announced last summer, shortly after the State Department rescinded a rule requiring a certificate from a doctor stating that an applicant had transitioned or was in the process of transitioning in order to change their gender on their passport.

The Transportation Security Administration will also offer the "X" option for

gender for applicants to its Trusted Traveler programs, which expedite travelers at U.S. airports and across international borders, beginning April 11.

The announcement Thursday was part of the Biden administration's recognition of Transgender Day of Visibility.

The administration announced several actions to make the federal government more inclusive for transgender people and said the Health and Human

Services Department will be the first agency to fly a trans pride flag.

The steps come as Republican leaders have advanced state measures targeting transgender people as part of a broader push to stoke culture wars.

The Biden administration said the option of the "X" category would soon be expanded to applications for federal student aid, discrimination complaints with the Equal Opportunity Commission and the White

House's security system for workers and visitors.

Activists said allowing Americans to identify by a gender other than the one on their birth certificate on other official documents was a huge step, given that many people face hurdles in changing or obtaining other forms of identification. More than 20 states provide a gender-neutral option of X on driver's licenses.

Associated Press contributed.



Americans will have a third gender option on passports. CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS/LOS ANGELES TIMES

WORLD & NATION

Russia’s invasion ends an era of globalization

Stark changes to the world’s economy are expected to happen

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

For decades, the free flow of trade across much of the world allowed the richest nations to enjoy easy access to low-priced goods and supplies. It meant solid economies and stable markets. And for households and businesses, especially in the United States and Europe, it meant an entire generation of ultralow inflation. Now, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has delivered a devastating blow to that system. Prices, which had already been rising, have shot up further. Supply chains, already disrupted by the swift recovery from the pandemic recession, face renewed pressure. The widening rupture between the world’s democracies and its autocracies has further darkened the global picture.

The new New World Order leaves multinational corporations in a tricky spot: They’re straining to keep costs low and profits high while halting ties with Russia and facing pressure from consumers troubled by Russian aggression and Chinese human rights abuses. Larry Fink, CEO of the investment management giant BlackRock, wrote last week in an annual letter to shareholders that Russia’s invasion “upended the world order that had been in place since the end of the Cold War” and “put an end to the globalization we have experienced over the last three decades.”

“A large-scale reorientation of supply chains,” Fink warned, “will inherently be inflationary.” Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, wrote in Foreign Affairs



People clear debris from destroyed houses Wednesday in Boromlya, Ukraine, near Kharkiv. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY

that “it now seems likely that the world economy really will split into blocs — one oriented around China and one around the United States.” Though the rift has been years in the making, Russia’s war against Ukraine may have completed it. It likely concludes an era in which countries with clashing political systems — democracies and authoritarian states alike — could trade and mutually benefit. With Russian missiles killing Ukrainian civilians, it seems almost quaint to recall that unfriendly nations could take their disputes to the World Trade Organization and expect a peaceful resolution. “It is hard to imagine Americans or Europeans in the same room as Russian delegates, pretending that one WTO member didn’t just invade another,” Rufus Yerxa and Wendy Cutler, both former U.S. trade

negotiators, wrote in The National Interest. Three decades ago, as the Cold War ended, globalization looked promising. The Soviet Union had collapsed. Communist China emerged from isolation and traded with the world. China gained entry to the WTO in 2001. Russia followed in 2012. Trade flows accelerated. Multinational companies moved production to China to access low-wage labor. They further cut costs by using a “just-in-time” strategy to acquire materials only as needed to fill orders. Profits swelled. A flood of Chinese imports gave American consumers access to inexpensive toys, clothes and electronics. U.S. policymakers dared to hope that freer trade would nudge Beijing and other authoritarian regimes toward political openness, too. But strains emerged. Europe became reliant on

energy from Vladimir Putin’s Russia. In 2011, an earthquake and tsunami damaged auto parts plants in Japan. A resulting parts shortage idled factories in the United States, a reminder that supply chains that spanned the Pacific risked disruptions. Then COVID-19 outbreaks closed Chinese factories and ports, snarling supply chains, causing shipping delays and higher prices and forcing U.S. companies to consider bringing production close to home. The geopolitics got nastier. American manufacturers accused China of foul play. They asserted — and many global analysts agreed — that Beijing manipulated its currency to make its exports less expensive and U.S. imports costlier, illicitly subsidized its own industries and restricted Western companies’ access to China’s market. The United States posted gaping trade defi-

cits with China. Many U.S. factories succumbed to the competition. Riding a backlash against globalization to the presidency, President Donald Trump launched a trade war with Beijing. Direct investment between the two sides tumbled. Now, Russia’s war is accelerating the economic breakup between democracies and autocracies. Putin’s aggression spurred Western sanctions against the Russian economy and financial system. China, alone among major nations as a Russia ally, has sought to strike a balance. It has criticized the Western response to the war but done nothing that would violate the Western sanctions. Some companies have responded to Moscow’s status as an economic pariah by leaving Russia. BP and Shell abandoned investments. McDonald’s and Starbucks stopped serving customers. Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has criticized Nestle, Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, Samsung and LG, among others, for continuing to operate in Russia. “If you’re a (Western) business and you’re looking toward the future in terms of building new plants, sourcing new products, expanding business lines, you’re going to be more prone to look toward countries and companies with similar values and norms,” said Cutler, now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. The emerging economic divide suggests a throwback to the Cold War, when the West and the Soviet bloc largely operated in separate economic spheres. But back then, China was an economic backwater. This time, it’s the world’s top exporter and second-biggest economy. Amid rising tensions between Beijing and Washington, Americans maintain a ravenous appetite for low-cost Chinese products. China last year exported nearly \$507 billion of goods to the United States, the second-highest figure on record and far more than any other country. The West’s retaliation against Russian aggression, though justified, will “have negative economic consequences that will go far beyond Russia’s financial collapse, that will persist, and that are not pretty,” Posen warned in Foreign Affairs. A shift away from China eventually could move more production back to the United States and help restore some manufacturing jobs. Still, Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at the research firm FWDBONDS, foresees at least “one gigantic stumbling block” to that idea: A labor shortage. “There is no one to work the factories to produce the goods here on American soil,” Rupkey wrote in a research report.

Nirenstein, Horowitz & Associates P.C.

Attorneys at Law

200 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 202
Glastonbury, CT 06033

My name is Barry Horowitz. I am a founding partner and president of the law firm of Nirenstein, Horowitz & Associates P.C. We practice exclusively in the areas of Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning, and Elder Law.

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We cannot answer these questions in a telephone call. As each family is unique. We know that a workshop is the best way for us to educate people about these issues.

These workshops allow us to give you this important information in a safe, sanitized & comfortable environment.

I teach many of the classes. I am a senior partner with the firm, and am a frequent speaker on trusts, wills, and proper estate planning. One of our associate attorneys, Edward Lowe, may be speaking. Attorney Lowe has been practicing law in Connecticut for 5 years, and is also dedicated to helping clients with their estate planning needs.

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| FARMINGTON TUESDAY, APRIL 5 10:00AM-12:00NOON (CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST) FARMINGTON GARDENS 999 FARMINGTON AVENUE | FARMINGTON TUESDAY, APRIL 5 7:00PM-9:00PM (COFFEE & DESSERT) FARMINGTON GARDENS 999 FARMINGTON AVENUE |
| MIDDLETOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 2:00PM-4:00PM (REFRESHMENTS) THE INN AT MIDDLETOWN 70 MAIN STREET | BLOOMFIELD THURSDAY, APRIL 7 10:00AM-12:00NOON (CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST) GILLETTE RIDGE GOLF CLUB 1360 HALL BLVD. |

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WORLD & NATION

Virus checks head into the wild

Researchers worry animals may spawn mutant variants

By Laura Ungar
Associated Press

GRAND PORTAGE, Minn. — To administer this COVID-19 test, Todd Kautz had to lay on his belly in the snow and worm his upper body into the narrow den of a hibernating black bear. Training a light on its snout, Kautz carefully slipped a long cotton swab into the bear’s nostrils five times.

For postdoctoral researcher Kautz and a team of other wildlife experts, tracking the coronavirus means freezing temperatures, icy roads, trudging through deep snow and getting uncomfortably close to potentially dangerous wildlife.

They’re testing bears, moose, deer and wolves on a Native American reservation in the remote north woods about 5 miles from Canada. Like researchers around the world, they are trying to figure out how much and where wildlife is spreading the virus.

Scientists are concerned that the virus could evolve within animal populations — potentially spawning dangerous viral mutants that could jump back to people, spread among us and reignite what for now seems to some people like a waning crisis.

The coronavirus pandemic has served as a stark and tragic example of how closely animal health and human health are linked. While the origins of the virus have not been proven, many scientists say it likely jumped from bats to humans, either directly or through another species that was being sold live in Wuhan, China.

And now the virus has been confirmed in wildlife in at least 24 states, including Minnesota. Recently, an early Canadian study showed someone in Ontario likely



A young buck peers out from under a blanket while in a deer trap March 2 in Grand Portage, Minnesota. LAURA UNGAR/AP

contracted a highly mutated strain from a deer.

“If the virus can establish itself in a wild animal reservoir, it will always be out there with the threat to spill back into the human population,” said University of Minnesota researcher Matthew Aliota, who is working with the Grand Portage Reservation team.

E.J. Isaac, a fish and wildlife biologist for the reservation, that’s home to the Grand Portage Ojibwe, said he expects the stakes to get even higher with the start of spring, as bears wake from hibernation and deer and wolves roam to different regions.

“If we consider that there are many species and they’re all intermingling to some extent, their patterns and their movements can exponentially increase the amount of transmission that could occur,” he said.

Their research is meant to ward off such unwelcome

surprises. But it carries its own set of risks.

Seth Moore, who directs the reservation biology and environment department, recently almost was bitten by a wolf.

And they sometimes team with a crew from the Texas-based company Heliwild to capture animals from the air. One chilly late-winter afternoon, the men climbed into a small helicopter with no side doors that lifted above the treetops. Flying low, they quickly spotted a deer in a forest clearing. They targeted the animal from the air with a net gun and dropped Moore off.

Wind whipped at his face as he worked in deep snow to quickly swab the deer’s nose for COVID, put on a tracking collar and collect blood and other biological samples for different research.

The men capture moose in much the same way, using tranquilizer darts instead of nets. They trap wolves and

deer either from the air or on the ground, and trap bears on the ground.

They knew of the young male bear they recently tested because they had already been tracking it. To get to the den, they had to take snowmobiles to the bottom of a hill then hike a narrow, winding path in snowshoes.

When Kautz crawled part of the way into the den, a colleague held his feet to pull him out quickly if necessary. The team also gave the animal a drug to keep it sleeping and another later to counteract the effects of the first.

To minimize the risk of exposing animals to COVID-19, the men are fully vaccinated and boosted and get tested frequently.

The day after testing the bear, Isaac packed their samples to send to Aliota’s lab in St. Paul. The veterinary and biomedical researcher hopes to learn not just

which animals are getting infected but also whether certain animals are acting as “bridge species” to bring it to others. Testing may later be expanded to red foxes and raccoons.

It’s also possible the virus hasn’t reached this remote location — yet. Since it’s already circulating in the wilderness of Minnesota and nearby states, Aliota said it’s only a matter of time.

Close contact between humans and animals has allowed the virus to overcome built-in barriers to spread between species.

To infect any living thing, the virus must get into its cells, which isn’t always easy. Virology expert David O’Connor likens the process to opening a “lock” with the virus’ spike protein “key.”

“Different species have different-looking locks, and some of those locks are not going to be pickable by the key,” the University of Wisconsin-Madison scien-

tist said.

But other locks are similar enough for the virus to enter an animal’s cells and make copies of itself. As it does, it can randomly mutate and still have a key that fits in the human lock. That allows it to leap back to humans through close contact with live animals, scientists believe.

Although spillback is rare, it only takes one person to bring a mutated virus into the realm of humans.

Some think the highly mutated omicron variant emerged from an animal rather than an immune-compromised human, as many believe. Virologist Marc Johnson of the University of Missouri is one of them, and now sees animals as “a potential source of pi,” the Greek letter that may be used to designate the next dangerous coronavirus variant.

Johnson and his colleagues found strange coronavirus lineages in New York City sewage with mutations rarely seen elsewhere, which he believes came from animals, perhaps rodents.

What scientists are most concerned about is that current or future variants could establish themselves and multiply widely within a reservoir species.

One possibility: white-tailed deer. Scientists found the coronavirus in a third of deer sampled in Iowa between September 2020 and January 2021. Others found COVID-19 antibodies in a third of deer tested in Illinois, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania. Infected deer generally have no symptoms. Testing in many other wild species has been limited or absent.

“It’s possible that the virus is already perhaps circulating in multiple animals,” said virology expert Suresh Kuchipudi of Pennsylvania State University, an author of the Iowa deer study. If unmonitored, the virus could leave people “completely blindsided,” he said.



Hadeel Abu Atiyeh, center, cries out during the funeral of her 17-year-old brother, Sanad Abu Atiyeh, on Thursday in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin. NASSER NASSER/AP

2 Palestinians killed during Israeli raid on refugee camp

By Joseph Krauss
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces raided a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, setting off a gunbattle in which two Palestinians were killed and 15 were wounded, as Israel targeted what it said were militant networks after a series of deadly attacks.

In a separate incident, a Palestinian stabbed a 28-year-old Israeli man on a bus in the West Bank before being killed by a bystander, the military said. The national emergency service said the stabbing victim was treated and taken to a hospital.

Videos circulated online showing smoke rising from the center of the Jenin refugee camp as gunfire echoed in the background. Others appeared to show Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen moving through the narrow streets.

The raid came two days after a Palestinian from a village near Jenin shot and killed five people in central Israel, part of a wave of attacks in recent days that have left a total of 11 people dead.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Sanad Abu Atiyeh, 17, and Yazid al-Saadi, 23, were killed Thursday. It said Nidal Jaafara, 30, was shot and killed near the West Bank town of Bethlehem, apparently referring to the stabbing incident.

The Israeli military said troops came under fire after entering Jenin to arrest three suspects linked to Tuesday’s attack. It said one soldier was wounded and evacuated to a hospital. The army said it has arrested 31 suspects in recent West Bank raids aimed at preventing more attacks.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s office later Thursday announced it was spending about \$56 million in emergency funding for more police officers and equipment.

“A strong police equals a strong Israel,” Bennett said in a statement.

The Jenin refugee camp was the scene of one of the deadliest battles of the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising. In April 2002, Israeli forces fought Palestinian militants in the camp for nearly three

weeks. Twenty-three Israeli soldiers and at least 52 Palestinians, including civilians, were killed, according to the U.N.

The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank and coordinates with Israel on security matters, appears to have had little control over Jenin in recent years. Israeli forces operating in and around the city and refugee camp often come under fire.

The Islamic Jihad militant group announced a “general mobilization” of its fighters after Thursday’s raid.

In Tuesday’s attack, a 27-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank village of Yabad, near Jenin, methodically gunned down victims, killing five. On Sunday night, two Islamic State group sympathizers shot and killed two police officers in the central city of Hadera. Last week, a combined car-ramming and stabbing attack in the southern city of Beersheba — also by an IS-inspired attacker — killed four.

The two attacks claimed by IS were carried out by Arab citizens of Israel.

Pence unveils policy agenda, weighs 2024 presidential run

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Vice President Mike Pence is offering a “Freedom Agenda” platform for Republicans ahead of this year’s midterm elections, presenting a framework for GOP candidates — and possibly himself for a 2024 presidential run.

Pence’s platform, released Thursday, combines traditional Republican goals such as increasing American energy production, cutting taxes and rolling back regulations, with priorities pursued by former President Donald Trump on issues like trade and immigration.

Pence also offers plenty of red meat for the GOP base, pledging, for instance, to save women’s sports by “ensuring that sports competitions are between those who share their God-given gender,” and calling for all high school students to pass a civics test.

“Elections are about the future, and I think it’s absolutely essential that, while we do our part to take the fight to the failed policies of the Biden administration and the radical left, at the same time, we want to offer a compelling vision built on our highest American ideals,” Pence told reporters ahead of the plan’s release. “It really is an effort to put in one place the agenda that I think carried us to the White House in 2016, carried two Bush presidencies to the White House and carried Ronald Reagan to the White House in 1980.”

Much of the 28-page plan reads like the platform of a presidential campaign, underscoring Pence’s ambitions and providing a road map of the themes and policies he is likely to pursue if he moves forward with a 2024 run. While Pence in recent weeks has worked to distance himself from his former boss as he begins



Former Vice President Mike Pence rolled out a 28-page “Freedom Agenda” platform for Republicans ahead of midterm elections. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP 2021

to reintroduce himself to voters and develop a political identity of his own, he has also been careful to tie himself to the policies of the Trump-Pence administration, which remain popular among GOP voters.

It’s part of what aides see as Pence’s unique opportunity, as a former talk radio host, congressman and Indiana governor, to merge the traditional conservative movement with Trump’s “Make America Great Again” agenda.

“There is a winning coalition for America that believes in the traditionally conservative values that the vice president has championed through his career,” said Marc Short, co-chair of Advancing American Freedom, the advocacy group Pence launched last year.

Still, Pence argues that “elections are about the future,” in contrast to Trump’s continued focus on his own false 2020 election claims.

Pence’s plan comes as the GOP has been at odds over the wisdom of offering voters a concrete policy agenda ahead of the midterm elections.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has been opposed to such efforts, arguing that Republicans should keep

the focus on President Joe Biden, whose popularity has slumped amid the highest inflation in 40 years and the Russian war in Ukraine.

The risks of a specific plan came into stark relief last month when Florida Sen. Rick Scott, another potential 2024 contender and the chair of the Senate Republicans’ campaign arm, unveiled his 11-point plan to “rescue America.” The effort drew immediate criticism from Democrats and even some Republicans, particularly its call for all Americans to “pay some income tax to have skin in the game” — which would amount to a tax hike for millions of people who pay no income tax because they earn so little.

House Republicans, meanwhile, have been working on their own “Commitment to America” plan with echoes of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America,” which Republicans unveiled in 1994 before sweeping the midterms that year.

“For the American public to join with you and support you, first they want to know what will you do,” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California said at the party’s annual retreat last week in Florida.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Lawmakers have deal 'in principle' for \$10B to combat COVID-19

From news services

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers moved to the brink Thursday of shaking hands on a scaled-back bipartisan compromise providing a fresh \$10 billion to combat COVID-19, a deal that could set up final congressional approval next week.

The price tag was down from a \$15.6 billion agreement between the two parties that collapsed weeks ago after House Democrats rejected cutting unused pandemic aid to states to help pay for it. President Joe Biden requested \$22.5 billion in early March.

The effort, which would finance steps like vaccines, treatments and tests, comes as Biden and other Democrats have warned the government is running out of money to counter the pandemic. At the same time, the more transmissible omicron variant BA.2 has been spreading quickly in the U.S. and abroad.

"We've reached an agreement in principle on all the spending and all of the offsets," Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the lead Republican bargainer, told reporters, using Washington-speak for savings.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and others were more circumspect.

"We are getting close to a final agreement that would garner bipartisan support," Schumer said on the Senate floor. He said lawmakers were still finalizing the bill's components and language, and awaiting a cost estimate from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Once clinched, an agreement would represent a semblance of bipartisan cooperation in battling the pandemic that dissolved a year ago, when a far

larger, \$1.9 trillion measure proposed by the new president cleared Congress with only Democratic votes. That bill was laden with spending to help struggling families, businesses and communities, while this one would be aimed exclusively at public health.

Half the new measure's \$10 billion would be used for treatments, said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., who has helped negotiate the agreement. He said top federal health officials would be given wide discretion on spending the rest of it but it would include research and other steps for battling the disease, which has killed more than 980,000 Americans and millions more around the world.

Khashoggi trial: The Turkish prosecutor in the case against 26 Saudi nationals charged in the 2018 slaying of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi requested Thursday that their trial in absentia be suspended and the case transferred to Saudi Arabia, raising fears of a possible coverup.

The panel of judges made no ruling on the request but said a letter would be sent to Turkey's Justice Ministry seeking its opinion on the possible transfer of the file to Saudi judicial authorities, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. The trial was adjourned until April 7.

In arguing for the transfer, the prosecutor told the court that the Saudi chief public prosecutor's office requested the Turkish proceedings be transferred to the kingdom in a letter dated March 13, and that international warrants issued by Ankara against the defendants be lifted, according to the DHA news agency.

The prosecutor said that because the arrest warrants cannot be executed and

A photograph showing the aftermath of a disaster. On the right, a white mobile home with a dark roof is partially damaged, with debris scattered around its base. To the left, a wooden structure, possibly a porch or a small building, is severely damaged, with its roof collapsed and its frame exposed. A person wearing a blue shirt and dark pants is standing near the damaged wooden structure. The foreground is filled with tall, dry, brown grass. The background consists of a dense forest of tall, thin trees under a clear blue sky.

Severe Southern weather: A homeowner on Thursday stands in a trailer home damaged by a tornado that touched down in Vancleave, Mississippi. A line of storms packing isolated twisters and high winds roared across the Deep South overnight. At least two people were killed when a tornado touched down in Florida's Panhandle. **MARY PEREZ /THE SUN HERALD**

defense statements cannot be taken, the case would be inconclusive in Turkey.

Supreme Court nominee: Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said Thursday he won't vote for Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, expressing concerns about her record despite supporting her confirmation as an appeals court judge last year.

The South Carolina senator's announcement had been expected after he criticized Jackson during her four days of hearings last week. But it gives Democrats one less Republican vote as they seek bipartisan backing for President Joe Biden's pick to replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer.

Graham, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were the only three Republicans to vote to confirm Jackson on the appeals court in 2021. Collins announced Wednesday that she'll vote

for Jackson. Murkowski has said she's still undecided.

A final confirmation vote is expected next week. Jackson would be the first Black woman on the high court in its more than 200-year history, and the sixth woman.

Women on quarters: The late Native Hawaiian hula teacher Edith Kanaka'ole is among five women who will be individually featured on U.S. quarters next year as part of a program that depicts notable women on the coins.

The U.S. Mint said Wednesday the other side of each quarter will show George Washington.

It described Kanaka'ole, who died in 1978, as a composer, chanter, dancer, teacher and entertainer.

The U.S. Mint said the other four women to appear on the coin next year were: Bessie Coleman, the first African American and first Native American woman pilot; Eleanor Roosevelt, first lady and author; Jovita Idár, the Mexi-

can American journalist and activist; and Maria Tallchief, who was America's first prima ballerina.

Michigan kidnapping plot: Defense attorneys rested their case Thursday after one of four men charged with plotting to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer repeatedly said “absolutely not” when asked if he had agreed to abduct her before the 2020 election.

Daniel Harris was the only defendant to speak to jurors on the 14th day of trial. It was a risky and dramatic shift following days of testimony from undercover FBI agents, an informant and two men who have pleaded guilty and pointed fingers at the rest.

Harris, Adam Fox, Barry Croft Jr., and Brandon Caserta are accused of conspiring to kidnap Whitmer from her vacation home in northern Michigan because of their disgust with government and her tough COVID-19 restrictions.

China plane crash: Chinese officials said Thursday that the search for wreckage in the March 21 crash of a China Eastern Boeing 737-800 is basically done and over 49,000 pieces of debris had been found.

Flight MU5735 plunged from 29,000 feet into a mountainside in southern China's Guangxi region, killing all 132 people on board.

Zhu Tao, the director of aviation safety for the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said important parts including the horizontal stabilizer, engine and remains of the right wing tip had been recovered after nearly 10 days of searching, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder have been found and sent to Beijing for examination and analysis.

Zhu said a preliminary investigation report would be completed within 30 days of the date of the crash.

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Inflation gauge watched by Fed hits 40-year high

Soaring prices for food and energy help fuel historic year-over-year increase

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An inflation gauge that is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve jumped 6.4% in February compared with a year ago, with sharply higher prices for food, gasoline and other necessities squeezing Americans’ finances. The figure reported Thursday by the Commerce Department was the largest year-over-year rise since January 1982. Excluding volatile prices for food and energy, so-called core inflation increased 5.4% in February from 12 months earlier. Robust consumer demand has combined with shortages of many goods to fuel the sharpest price jumps in four decades. Measures of inflation will likely worsen in the coming months because Thursday’s report doesn’t reflect the consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which occurred Feb. 24. The war has disrupted global oil markets and accelerated prices for wheat, nickel and other key commodities.

Squeezed by inflation, consumers increased their spending by just 0.2% in February, down from a 2.7% gain in January. Adjusted for inflation, spending actually fell 0.4% last month. The decline partly reflected a shift from heavy spending on goods to a focus on services, such as health care, travel and entertainment, which consumers had long avoided during the worst of the pandemic. Spending on such services grew 0.6%, the most since July, while purchases of autos, furniture, clothes and other goods dropped 2.1%. Many economists had previously suggested that a shift away from goods purchases might loosen supply chain snarls and cool inflation. But prices are still rising rapidly for goods, including a 1.1% increase in February. Americans’ overall incomes rose 0.5% in February, the highest gain since November and up from just 0.1% in January. Wages and salaries jumped 0.8%, the most in four months. Businesses have been raising pay to attract and keep employees — a trend

that is benefiting workers but also giving employers cause to raise prices to offset their higher labor costs. That cycle is helping fuel inflation. Last month, food costs climbed 1.4%, the most in nearly two years. Energy costs spiked 3.7%, the biggest such increase since October. The Federal Reserve responded this month to the inflation surge by raising its benchmark short-term interest rate by a quarter-point from near zero, and it’s likely to keep raising it well into next year. Because its rate affects many consumer and business loans, the Fed’s rate hikes will make borrowing more expensive and could weaken the economy over time. Michael Feroli of JPMorgan is among economists who now think the Fed will raise its key rate by an aggressive half-point in both May and June. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.6% from January to February, up slightly from the previous month’s increase of 0.5% and matching the highest monthly figure since 2008.

Kremlin insists that gas be paid in rubles

By Frances D’Emilio and Geir Moulson
Associated Press

BERLIN — Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a decree Thursday demanding payment for natural gas in rubles but appeared to temper the order by allowing dollar and euro payments through a designated bank, the latest twist over energy supplies that Europe relies on to heat homes and generate electricity. The measure got a cautious reception from European leaders who insist payment will remain in euros and dollars and want to see the fine print of how the decree will be implemented. Countries deemed “unfriendly” for imposing sanctions on Russia over its war in Ukraine can continue to pay in foreign currency through a Russian bank that will then convert the money into rubles, according to a Kremlin decree published by state media Thursday. It came a day after the leaders of Italy and Germany said they received assurances from Putin about gas supplies. Putin talked tougher, saying Russia will start accepting ruble payments Friday and contracts will be stopped if buyers don’t sign up to the new conditions, including opening ruble accounts in Russian banks. “If these payments are not made, we will consider it a failure of the buyer to fulfill its obligations, with all the ensuing consequences,” Putin said. His proposal has caused natural gas prices to gyrate and raised fears it could be a prelude to an interruption of supplies to Europe, which is heavily dependent on Russian natural gas and would struggle with a sudden cutoff. The German government Wednesday declared an early warning of an energy emergency, the first step toward imposing gas rationing for industry to spare homes and hospitals.



Students in the culinary program at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, Massachusetts. KIERAN KESNER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

New recipe for becoming a chef

Community colleges provide a frugal option as traditional schools deal with challenges

By Priya Krishna
The New York Times

HAVERHILL, Mass. — The students all wore white chef coats, houndstooth pants and short toques as they tasted their lamb tagines for salt. Floor-to-ceiling windows in the sleek kitchen framed a sweeping view of the Merrimack River. Here, north of Boston in the culinary school at Northern Essex Community College, the students will learn about sous vide cooking, use pastry sheeters to laminate dough, break down whole pigs and try molecular gastronomy techniques. The job placement rate after graduation is 100%. “There could be two or three jobs per student around here,” said Denis Boucher, the coordinator of the culinary program. The price of that education: about \$6,500 for a certificate and \$14,000 for an associate degree — or less, as many culinary students receive grants or scholarships. Compare that with the Culinary Institute of America, an acclaimed private school where a

single semester at its New York campus costs nearly \$20,000. Less than a decade ago, the number of culinary schools in the United States was rising rapidly. But the past few years have been challenging. Confronted with increasingly steep operating costs and the pandemic, several schools have permanently closed campuses, including the New England Culinary Institute and the International Culinary Center (which licensed its curriculum to the Institute of Culinary Education). Johnson & Wales University, which has a well-known culinary program, closed two campuses in 2020. Even before the arrival of COVID-19, Le Cordon Bleu closed all of its North American outposts. What’s left, for the most part, are the most recognizable names — like the Culinary Institute of America and the Institute of Culinary Education, which each reported steady enrollment throughout the pandemic — and culinary schools at community colleges like Northern Essex, which has doubled its enrollment to 33 students since the program began in 2020 and expects to more than double that total this fall. Many other community colleges have opened or expanded culinary programs in

recent years, offering a high-quality education at a fraction of the cost of a private cooking school. While they lack prestige, these institutes may be better matched to the current economy. They can be a crucial resource for a restaurant business in desperate need of line cooks and other skilled workers, as well as for students seeking to start a career without running up big debts. The boom in community college cooking programs has caught the attention of local governments and businesses. The state-of-the-art kitchens at Northern Essex Community College were built and equipped with funding from the state and support from Lupoli Cos., a Massachusetts real estate developer that owns the culinary school building and helped cover some infrastructure costs. Students can work in one of Lupoli’s restaurants, Bosa, as part of the curriculum to get real-world experience, and the school doesn’t have to pay any operational costs. On a recent afternoon, students got a lesson in breaking down various meats at Haverhill Beef Co., a butcher shop. “Community colleges are finding creative ways to be able to offer what these larger colleges had to spend so much money to offer,” Boucher said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

TSA announces screening update

WASHINGTON — U.S. airport security procedures will become more gender-neutral, with changes to scanners used for screening and the use of an “X” for travelers going through Precheck who do not identify as male or female, the Biden administration said Thursday. Transportation Security Administration officers will also receive new instructions on screening passengers that are intended to make procedures less invasive, the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement. The use of the “X” pronoun in the TSA Precheck advanced security program will begin April 11 and is intended to keep pace with identity documents that already include that option, DHS said.

30-year mortgage rate passes 4.5%

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates rose again this week as the key 30-year loan rate vaulted over 4.5% and attained its highest level since the end of 2018. Against a backdrop of inflation at a four-decade high, the increases in home loan rates come a few weeks after the Federal Reserve raised by a quarter-point its benchmark short-term interest rate to cool the economy. The central bank has signaled multiple additional rate hikes this year. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average rate on the 30-year loan this week rose to 4.67% from 4.42% last week. That’s a sharp contrast from last year’s record-low rates of around 3%.

More in US seek jobless benefits; layoffs low

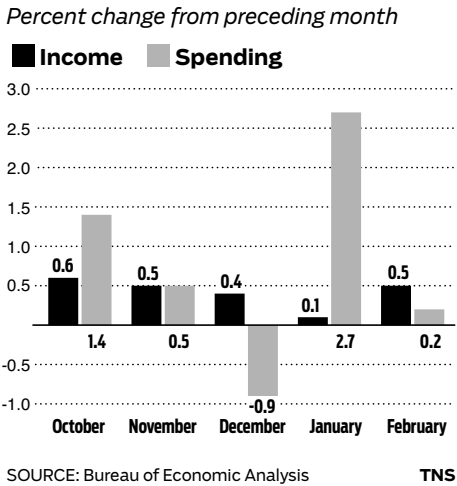
By Matt Ott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but layoffs remain at historic lows. Jobless claims rose by 14,000 to 202,000 for the week ending March 26, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The previous week’s tally of 188,000 claims was the fewest since 1969. First-time applications for jobless aid generally track the pace of layoffs. The four-week average for claims, which compensates for weekly volatility, fell to 208,500 from 212,000 the previous week. In total, 1,307,000 Americans were collecting jobless aid for the week ending

March 19, the fewest since December 1969. Employers added 678,000 jobs in February, according to recent government data, the largest monthly total since July. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.8%, from 4% in January, extending a sharp decline in joblessness to its lowest level since before the pandemic erupted in 2020. The government reports March jobs data on Friday, and analysts forecast that the U.S. economy gained 477,500 jobs for the month. Job openings hovered at a near-record level in February, little changed from the previous month, continuing a trend that Federal Reserve officials see as a driver of inflation. There were 11.3 million available jobs last month, matching January’s figure and just below December’s record of 11.4

million, the Labor Department said Tuesday. The number of Americans quitting their jobs was also historically high, at 4.4 million, up from 4.3 million in January. More than 4.5 million people quit in November, the most on records dating back two decades. The Federal Reserve launched an effort two weeks ago to tame the worst inflation since the early 1980s, raising its benchmark short-term interest rate and signaling up to six additional rate hikes this year. The Fed’s quarter-point hike in its key rate, which it had pinned near zero since the pandemic recession struck two years ago, marks the start of its effort to curb the high inflation that followed the recovery from the recession.

Personal income and spending



BUSINESS



Wilson Tong, CEO of LifeArt Asia, stands near a live reporter in a cardboard coffin Friday at Tong's factory in Hong Kong. Each coffin can hold up to 441 pounds. KIN CHEUNG/AP

COVID-19 toll in Hong Kong a boost for eco-coffin market

By Alice Fung and Janice Lo Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's deadliest coronavirus outbreak has cost about 6,000 lives this year — and the city is now running out of coffins.

Authorities have scrambled to order more, with the government saying 1,200 coffins had reached the city last week with more to come.

Space constraints make cremation a common burial practice in the densely populated island territory off the Chinese mainland, and the coffins typically are wood or wood substitutes.

To answer the shortage of them due to the COVID-19 toll, some companies are offering alternatives such as an environmentally friendly cardboard coffin.

LifeArt Asia has cardboard coffins made of recycled wood fiber that can be customized with designs on the exterior.

In its factory in Aberdeen, a southern district of Hong Kong, up to 50 coffins can be

produced a day.

CEO Wilson Tong said there is still some resistance to using caskets made of cardboard.

“(People feel that) it's a little bit shameful to use so-called paper caskets. They feel that this is not very respectful to their loved ones,” Tong said.

But he noted the company has designs that can reflect religion or hobbies and the coffin can even have a personalized color.

“So it gives more than enough sufficient choices to the people, and so that they can customize the funeral and offer a more pleasant farewell without the fear of death.”

The company says its cardboard coffins, when burned during the cremation, emits 87% less greenhouse gas compared to those made of wood or wood substitutes.

Each LifeArt coffin weighs about 23 pounds.

The alternative coffins can also contain a body that weighs up to 441 pounds.

Hong Kong has reported about 200 deaths daily on

average over the past week as many elderly residents who were unvaccinated die from COVID-19.

The surge has put a strain on mortuaries, and refrigerated containers are being used to temporarily store bodies.

Amid the rising toll during the pandemic, nonprofit Forget Thee Not, which advises people on their choices for last rites, bought 300 cardboard coffins and caskets to either send to hospitals or give to families who need them.

“We have been promoting environmental-friendly and personalized funerals. Now we see that Hong Kong needs more coffins. There are not enough coffins for the bodies in our hospitals,” said Albert Ko, a board director at Forget Thee Not.

Ko said some of the elderly who discussed their last rites with the organization have been open-minded and welcoming to the idea of eco-coffins.

“We hope to take this opportunity to contribute as well as promote eco-coffins,” he said.

US looking for more lithium as demand for EVs ramps up

By Patrick Whittle Associated Press

NEWRY, Maine — The race is on to produce more lithium in the United States.

The U.S. will need far more lithium to achieve its clean energy goals — and the industry that mines, extracts and processes the chemical element is poised to grow. But it also faces a host of challenges from environmentalists, Indigenous groups and government regulators.

Although lithium reserves are distributed widely across the globe, the U.S. is home to just one active lithium mine, in Nevada. The element is critical to development of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries that are seen as key to reducing climate-changing carbon emissions created by cars and other forms of transportation.

Worldwide demand for lithium was about 350,000 tons in 2020, but industry estimates project demand will be up to six times greater by 2030. New and potential lithium mining and extracting projects are in various stages of development in states, including California, Maine, Nevada and North Carolina.

“Nobody really foresaw this huge spike in demand,” said Tim Crowley, vice president of government affairs for Lithium Nevada, a subsidiary of a company developing a mine in Thacker Pass, Nevada. “We owned the lithium space for a long time, and we forfeited it to China.”

Much of the world's lithium comes from South America and Australia, and China dominates the world-wide supply chain for lithium-ion batteries. The U.S. produces less than 2% of the world's supply of lithium, although it has about 4% of the reserves. The largest reserves in the world are in Chile.

Expanding domestic



Derek Benson, COO of EnergySource Minerals, walks through a plant in Calipatria, California, where the company is extracting lithium from brine. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP 2021

lithium production would involve open pit mining or brine extraction, which involves pumping a mineral-rich brine to the surface and processing it. Opponents including the Sierra Club have raised concerns that the projects could harm sacred Indigenous lands and jeopardize fragile ecosystems and wildlife.

But the projects could also benefit the environment in the long run by getting fossil fuel-burning cars off the road, said Glenn Miller, emeritus professor of environmental sciences at the University of Nevada.

“A domestic source has tremendous value. Then we can do things that only China is doing with production,” Miller said.

Lithium, the lightest metal on Earth, was discovered by Swedish chemist Johan August Arfwedson more than 200 years ago. Since then, lithium and its compounds have been used in everything from psychiatric medicine to lubricating grease.

But interest in lithium has exploded in recent years because of its use in rechargeable batteries for electric and hybrid cars, lawnmowers, power tools and more. Lithium batteries

also power laptops and cell phones.

The Biden administration has made a plan for a half-million charging stations for electric vehicles a signature piece of its infrastructure goals. That effort, and the growth of electric vehicle companies such as Tesla, will require much more lithium to make batteries.

The new lithium mining project closest to development is the one proposed for Thacker Pass by Lithium Americas.

That northern Nevada mine would make millions of tons of lithium available, but Native American tribes have argued that it's located on sacred lands and should be stopped.

Construction could start late this year, said Lithium Americas CEO Jonathan Evans, noting that it would be the first lithium project on federal land permitted in six decades.

Evans said there will likely be more U.S. attempts to extract lithium because of the rising demand. “It has been a small industry and it has grown quickly,” he said. “I do expect larger companies to enter the space via acquisitions or other means.”

MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, April 1, 2022

↓ DOW 34,678.35 -550.46

↓ 10-YR T-BOND 2.33% -.03

↑ GOLD \$1,949.20 +15.70

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 34,678.35

Change: -550.46 (-1.6%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes

| | CLOSE | CHG. | YTD |
|---------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| DOW Indus. | 34,678.35 | -550.46 | -4.57% |
| DOW Trans. | 16,283.02 | -263.83 | -1.18% |
| DOW Util. | 1,041.96 | -.14 | +6.24% |
| NYSE Comp. | 16,670.91 | -261.85 | -2.87% |
| Nasdaq Comp. | 14,220.52 | -221.76 | -9.10% |
| S&P 500 | 4,530.41 | -72.04 | -4.95% |
| S&P 400 | 2,693.66 | -38.94 | -5.22% |
| Wilshire 5000 | 45,606.67 | -713.76 | -5.89% |
| Russell 2000 | 2,070.13 | -20.94 | -7.80% |

Commodities

| | CLOSE | PREV. | YTD |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| FUELS | | | |
| Crude Oil (bbl) | 100.28 | 107.82 | +33.33% |
| Natural Gas (mm btu) | 5.64 | 5.61 | +51.26% |
| Unleaded Gas (gal) | 3.19 | 3.33 | +43.01% |
| METALS | | | |
| Gold (oz) | 1,949.20 | 1,933.50 | +6.66% |
| Silver (oz) | 25.12 | 25.10 | +7.69% |

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

| Foreign Exchange | | | Money Rates | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| | ForEx in U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ in ForEx | | CLOSE | PREV. WK. |
| Britain | 1.3135 | .7613 | Prime rate | 3.50 | 3.50 |
| Canada | .8011 | 1.2482 | 3-mo. T-Bill | 0.52 | 0.51 |
| China | .1577 | 6.3400 | 6-mo. T-Bill | 1.04 | 0.95 |
| Euro | 1.1071 | .9033 | 5-yr T-Note | 2.42 | 2.37 |
| Japan | .008222 | 121.62 | 10-yr T-Note | 2.33 | 2.34 |
| Mexico | .050342 | 19.8643 | 30-yr T-Bond | 2.44 | 2.51 |

| Global Markets | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| | CLOSE | CHG. | %CHG. %YTD |
| Frankfurt | 14,414.75 | -191.30 | -1.31% -9.25% |
| London | 7,515.68 | -63.07 | -.83% +1.78% |
| Hong Kong | 21,996.85 | -235.18 | -1.06% -5.99% |
| Nikkei | 27,821.43 | -205.82 | -.73% -3.37% |

| Stocks of Local Interest | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
| STOCK (TICKER) | CLOSE | CHG. | YTD %CHG | STOCK (TICKER) | CLOSE | CHG. YTD %CHG | |
| AMC Entertainment A (AMC) | 24.64 | -1.04 | -9.4 | Longeveron Inc (LGVN) | 13.80 | +7.08 | +14.3 |
| AT&T Inc (T) | 23.63 | -.51 | -3.9 | MGM Resorts Intl (MGM) | 41.94 | -1.22 | -6.6 |
| Adv Micro Dev (AMD) | 109.34 | -9.88 | -24.0 | MetLife Inc (MET) | 70.28 | -1.35 | +12.5 |
| Akebia Therapeutics (AKBA) | .72 | -.11 | -68.2 | Micron Tech (MU) | 77.89 | -1.27 | -16.4 |
| American Airlines Gp (AAL) | 18.25 | +2.0 | +1.6 | Microsoft Corp (MSFT) | 308.31 | -5.55 | -8.3 |
| Amphenol Corp (APH) | 75.35 | -1.36 | -13.8 | Mullen Automotive (MULN) | 2.98 | -.05 | -43.0 |
| Apple Inc (AAPL) | 174.61 | -3.16 | -1.7 | Novartis AG (NVS) | 87.75 | -.21 | +3 |
| Avangrid Inc (AGR) | 46.74 | -.09 | -6.3 | Nvidia Corporation (NVDA) | 272.86 | -4.04 | -7.2 |
| Bank of America (BAC) | 41.22 | -1.78 | -7.3 | Occid Pettl (OXY) | 56.74 | -.74 | +95.7 |
| Barnes Group (B) | 40.19 | -.46 | -13.7 | Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS) | 76.95 | -.80 | -11.6 |
| BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE) | .84 | +0.1 | -29.2 | Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT) | 19.99 | -.33 | +12.2 |
| Booking Holdings (BKNG) | 2348.45 | +20.46 | -2.1 | Pfizer Inc (PFE) | 51.77 | -.67 | -12.3 |
| Brist Myr Sqb (BMY) | 73.03 | -.15 | +17.1 | Pitney Bowes (PBI) | 5.20 | -.13 | -21.6 |
| CVS Health Corp (CVS) | 101.21 | -2.34 | -1.9 | Prudential Fncl (PRU) | 118.17 | -2.13 | +9.2 |
| Carnival Corp (CCL) | 20.22 | +6.2 | +5 | Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG) | 70.00 | +0.6 | +4.9 |
| Carrier Global Corp (CARR) | 45.87 | -1.70 | -15.4 | Raytheon Technolog (RTX) | 99.07 | -1.76 | +15.1 |
| Charter Commun (CHTR) | 545.52 | -24.60 | -16.3 | Rogers Corp (ROG) | 271.70 | -.30 | -5 |
| Cigna Corp (CI) | 239.61 | -6.22 | +4.3 | SOS Ltd (SOS) | .54 | -.20 | -34.7 |
| Citigroup (C) | 53.40 | -1.57 | -11.6 | SS&C Technologies (SSNC) | 75.02 | -.95 | -8.5 |
| Clovis Oncology Inc (CLVS) | 2.02 | +3.7 | -25.5 | SoFi Technologies (SOFI) | 9.45 | -.32 | -40.2 |
| Comcast Corp A (CMCSA) | 46.82 | -.87 | -7.0 | Sthwstn Energy (SWN) | 7.17 | +0.7 | +53.9 |
| DiDi Global Inc (DIDI) | 2.50 | -.44 | -49.8 | Stanley Black & Deck (SWK) | 139.79 | -3.29 | -25.9 |
| Disney (DIS) | 137.16 | -3.80 | -11.8 | Starwood Prop Trust (STWD) | 24.17 | +4.2 | -.5 |
| EMCOR Group Inc (EME) | 112.63 | -2.07 | -11.6 | Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL) | .70 | -.02 | +21.1 |
| Ethan Allen (ETD) | 26.07 | -.68 | -.8 | Tellurian Inc (TELL) | 5.30 | -.14 | +72.1 |
| Eversource Energy (ES) | 88.19 | -.45 | -3.1 | Terex Corp (TEX) | 35.66 | -1.33 | -18.9 |
| Exela Technologies (XELA) | .42 | -.01 | -52.6 | Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY) | 7.77 | -.37 | +10.5 |
| Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM) | 82.59 | -1.19 | +35.0 | TMC the metals Co (TMC) | 2.59 | +4.2 | +24.5 |
| First Wave BioPharm (FWBI) | 1.06 | -.02 | -26.6 | Tonix Pharma (TNXP) | .23 | +0.1 | -35.8 |
| Ford Motor (F) | 16.91 | -.36 | -18.6 | Travelers Cos (TRV) | 182.73 | -2.82 | +16.8 |
| FuelCell Energy (FCEL) | 5.76 | -.11 | +10.8 | UiPath Inc (PATH) | 21.59 | -7.45 | -49.9 |
| Gen Dynamics (GD) | 241.18 | -3.14 | +15.7 | United Rentals (URI) | 355.21 | -3.98 | +6.9 |
| Gen Electric (GE) | 91.50 | -3.08 | -3.1 | UnitedHealth Group (UNH) | 509.97 | -10.85 | +1.6 |
| Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg (DNA) | 4.03 | -.19 | -51.5 | Verizon Comm (VZ) | 50.94 | -.67 | -2.0 |
| Hartford Fn Sv (HIG) | 71.81 | -1.71 | +4.0 | Virtus Invest (VRTS) | 239.99 | -2.54 | -19.2 |
| Honeywell Intl (HON) | 194.58 | -1.96 | -6.7 | Voya Financial (VOYA) | 66.35 | -1.16 | +1 |
| Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN) | 13.90 | -.14 | -12.7 | Webster Financial (WBS) | 56.12 | -1.57 | +5 |
| Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC) | 2.30 | -.09 | +274.6 | Wells Fargo & Co (WFC) | 48.46 | -1.65 | +1.0 |
| IQIYI Inc (IQ) | 4.54 | -.50 | -.4 | White Mtns Insur (WTM) | 1136.24 | +33.92 | +12.1 |
| Infosys Ltd (INFY) | 24.89 | -.08 | -1.7 | World Wrestling Ent (WWE) | 62.44 | +0.6 | +26.6 |
| Intel Corp (INTC) | 49.56 | -1.87 | -3.8 | XPO Logistics Inc (XPO) | 72.80 | -3.45 | -6.0 |
| Jaguar Health Inc (JAGX) | .71 | +1.7 | -31.8 | Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX) | 20.17 | -.29 | -10.9 |
| Kaman (KAMN) | 43.48 | -.11 | +8 | | | | |
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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Scary turn for gun proliferation



Gail Collins

Mark this on your April calendar: President Joe Biden does something about ghost guns. OK, just sort of. But let's be thankful for a start.

The only truly good news is that they have nothing to do with evil spirits of long-deceased revolvers floating around your house in the middle of the night. The bad news is that they're very easy to obtain and pretty darned popular — perhaps because they often have no serial numbers.

Those of us who worry about gun proliferation used to obsess about “the iron pipeline,” aka Interstate 95, along which weapons were ferried from Southern states where they were easy to purchase to Northern destinations where they could be sold for a very tidy profit.

Today if you want an off-the-records gun, you go online. You order a ghost, which arrives in pieces, ready to be assembled. You can even order a 3D printer to make one from scratch.

“This is as big a threat as anything I've ever seen,” said John Feinblatt, head of

Everytown for Gun Safety. “They're a dream come true for a prohibited person — a felon. Or an armed extremist. They're invisible. They're well made.”

It's a tough time for gun safety in general. The Supreme Court decided to take a look at New York regulations that set a pretty high bar on the right to, say, carry a revolver in your pocket when you go out for a walk. Nobody knows what's going to happen. “The Supreme Court keeps me up at night. For all kinds of reasons,” Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut told me.

Lawmakers from Connecticut tend to be very concerned about this kind of issue, an obsession that goes back to 2012, when a 20-year-old stole his mother's gun and then killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, 20 of them children.

The Newtown shooting shocked the world, and many of us — simpletons that we were — presumed it would be the start of a whole new American attitude toward guns.

Certainly didn't imagine that in March 2022 we'd be watching activists, many of them survivors of the Parkland, Florida,

high school shooting in 2018, place 1,100 body bags on the National Mall. Each bag stood for about 150 lives lost to guns since Parkland — including homicides, accidental gun deaths and suicides. Organizers said there was no way to include one for each victim since that would have meant 170,000 body bags.

And how's Biden, who clearly sees himself as a champion of gun safety regulation, doing? “It depends on what your expectations were,” Blumenthal said, carefully. While many anti-gun activists say they've been disappointed, Blumenthal still has a lot of hope. “He's more passionate and determined than any president in my memory,” the senator said.

Definitely more than the guy who came before. Like most New Yorkers, Donald Trump sympathized with gun control for most of his life. Then he began making political speeches and told people he was stunned by how enthusiastic Republican crowds got if you gave a shout-out for the right to bear arms. Instant switcheroo.

Biden's been consistent, if not always successful. His first attempt to name a director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives imploded when

the Second Amendment lobby managed to torpedo the nomination of gun control activist David Chipman last year. “Either this was impossible to win, or the strategy failed,” Chipman said afterward — an analysis that could be used for many administration encounters with the U.S. Senate.

But Biden, who's still without a permanent ATF director, did direct the Department of Justice to help stop ghost gun proliferation. That was a year ago. The department complied rather quickly, opening the new rules for comment last May. Public comment closed in August, and ... here we are. Waiting for word.

Biden also requested a ton of money for the ATF in his budget — presuming the budget gets passed and there's a new director who'll know how to spend it.

So how's the president doing? Feel free to vote:

A. Ghost guns! Hey, he's got a start.

B. Ghost guns! Good grief, is that all he's done?

C. Well, as long as he delivers before the Easter Egg Roll.

Collins is a columnist for The New York Times.

Keep wearing masks on transit

By Justin Fox

Bloomberg Opinion

One morning last week a young man in a sport coat with AirPods in his ears and no mask on his face boarded my bus in Los Angeles and sat down. Then he looked around at all the masked faces, got up, walked to the front of the bus to grab a free mask, put it on and returned to his seat.

In general I'm all for getting back to normal as we figure out how to live with COVID-19. I go to the office most workdays, eat indoors at restaurants, travel, shake hands or hug as appropriate and, yes, ride public transportation here in L.A. and back home in New York City. But I'd be happy to keep wearing masks on the bus and subway pretty much forever, and would really like it if lots of other people did, too.

For the moment mask-wearing is still required on planes, trains and other transit in the U.S. by a federal mandate that was extended recently until April 18. Airline executives are pushing hard for that to be the end of it, and on the subway in New York, adherence to the rule is falling quickly already, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Bus riders, who in New York tend to be older than subway riders, have generally been better about keeping their masks on, but there, too, the trend is downward.

On my Southern California commute, mask compliance remains very high. But there's been an interesting shift in who disobeys. Back when the first wave of omicron had just crested it was the occasional troubled person, like the drunk young man with a beer in his hand who almost fell onto my lap one evening and the guy with a mask around his chin pleading “Stay away, I have COVID,” from the front of the bus one morning (we did, and the poor bus driver, who couldn't stay away, let everybody board in back until the man got off).

Lately, with more commuters returning and a more businesslike atmosphere prevailing, most of the maskless riders I've



Riders on a subway train on March 11 in New York City. A federal rule calling for masks on mass transit remains in place. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY

seen have been young people dressed for office jobs. I'm guessing they're fully vaccinated, at extremely low risk from COVID-19 and, with mask mandates already lifted in most other settings, just didn't think they needed one on the bus.

There's surely more of that to come, regardless of what happens after April 18. Continuing to require masks on planes, trains and buses while almost everywhere else goes mask-optional will be really hard to enforce. And while the looming omicron BA.2 wave and future COVID-19 variants may justify renewed mandates, permanent mask rules in the absence of a public health emergency really do feel like a step too far.

That said, maintaining high levels of mask-wearing in crowded indoor settings where the costs to doing so are low seems like it might be a really good thing. It would probably reduce transmission of COVID-19, as well as seasonal colds and flu, and by helping sustain ongoing demand for surgical and N95 masks it could keep us better prepared for future variants and other pandemics than we were for this one.

In a lot of settings, there are costs offsetting at least some of those benefits. Wearing a mask on a long plane, train or bus ride, or for an entire day at school or work, can be unpleasant, and in the latter two cases interfere with crucial communication. Wearing one into a restaurant and then taking it off to eat seems mostly pointless.

On a shortish bus or subway ride, on the other hand, wearing a mask doesn't detract from the experience in any meaningful way. If anything, widespread mask-wearing by others makes the ride more pleasant. Mask-wearing discourages eating and talking — the first of which is generally banned on city buses and trains, while the second is more often than not irritating to fellow passengers. It's a win-win!

Lots of people wearing masks also encourages more people to wear masks. There have been at least a couple of academic attempts to quantify this effect, although neither offers a simple percentage estimate of how prevalent masking needs to be to stay prevalent. In China and Japan it's been near-universal during the pandemic in the absence of any mandates, and was already widespread before COVID-19, especially during cold and flu season. Nudging big-city public transportation systems in the U.S. toward that kind of equilibrium seems like a worthy and not entirely unreasonable goal.

How to do it? The Behavior Change for Good Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania offers an assortment of “Behavioral Science Tips to Encourage Mask-Wearing” that fall into five main categories:

- Emphasize the many and the influential who are wearing masks
- Respect individual freedom
- Make it the right thing to do

- Use emotional appeals
 - Invite ownership and personalization
- Transit agencies may hesitate to undertake such campaigns for fear of discouraging ridership by signaling that public transportation is unsafe, although I would think that people who have been avoiding buses and subways during the pandemic would be more reassured by masked faces than frightened by them (85% of subway users surveyed by the MTA last fall agreed with the statement, “I feel safer when I see other customers wearing masks”).

The early belief that the New York subway in particular was a dangerous pandemic vector has been largely debunked by the rapid spread of COVID-19 in non-urban settings, and buses and subways are often better ventilated than offices, restaurants, stores or dwellings. But they're still enclosed spaces crowded with strangers where masks can add protection.

So, while I respect your freedom, I wear a mask on the bus and subway, as do all my friends, especially the influential ones, because it's the right thing to do and we want to save the lives of immunosuppressed grandmas — and if you want to wear a cloth Aaron Judge face covering that offers you relatively little protection, well, it's better than nothing.

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How can we fix military recruiting that is going AWOL?

By Thomas Spoehr

The Heritage Foundation

It's national budget time in Washington, so the conversation on Capitol Hill is focused on numbers. But an important number is being overlooked, one that affects our ability to defend ourselves. At a time when threats abroad are growing, America's ability to recruit the volunteers needed to fully staff its armed forces is on the wane.

The 2023 defense budget request just released by the Biden administration reduces the size of the Army by 12,000 soldiers. It isn't that the Army doesn't need those soldiers — senior leaders have consistently said the Army is too small. The reason for the cut is that the Army projects that they won't be able to recruit enough people to meet their quotas.

Indeed, this year it's possible none of the services will meet their recruiting goals. Only halfway into the fiscal year, the Army and the Navy recently raised their bonuses for recruits to an all-time high of \$50,000, the head of Air Force recruiting told his recruiters “we have warning lights flashing,” and the Marine Corps is short recruit-

ers because the recruiting business now is so difficult.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised to see this at a time the government is reporting there are 4.6 million more open jobs than unemployed Americans looking for work.

A shortage of restaurant workers is bad, but a manpower shortage in the U.S. military creates strategic risk for America at a time when threats are higher than they have been in modern memory.

The recruiting crisis is the result of a “perfect storm” of multiple factors, all coming to a head in 2022.

Each year, fewer young people qualify for military service. Widespread obesity (36% for ages 18-39), increasing numbers of youth afflicted with mental health issues (26% of those aged 18-25), and other issues including criminal records or lack of high school degrees is driving down the percentage of youths qualified to enlist without a waiver.

In 2016 a Pentagon study reported only 29% of Americans age 17 to 24 were eligible to enlist. Multiple sources now report that number is below 25%.

Another ironic complication: One of the Defense Department's own new systems,

the Prescription Medication Reporting System, is having the unforeseen effect of disqualifying large numbers of applicants due to new visibility into young people's widespread prescribed use of psychotropic drugs. About 1 in 12 youth ages 12-17 are on such medications today.

But the larger issue with recruiting is that fewer Americans now see value in joining the armed forces.

For those motivated by pay and benefits, companies like Amazon are offering packages that include pay of at least \$15 an hour, fully funded college tuition, health care and 20 weeks of fully paid parental leave.

Conversely, a brand-new Army private, assuming they work a 40-hour week (which is unlikely; most work 60 or more) earns about \$11 an hour.

Those who might normally be inspired to serve anyway are likely deterred by the messages they are receiving today (or not receiving) from American society.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that between 2017 and 2022, Americans who believe military officers possess “high ethics” declined 10 points, down to 61%, the lowest since they began measuring.

For those who watch TV, young people

can easily find fundraising commercials featuring wounded veterans, but little in the way of the virtues of military service.

Civic education in schools that emphasizes national service is missing in action. National leaders and role models rarely — if ever — discuss the value of public and military service.

Given all this, why would a young person choose the military today? Most don't. For the few that do, many come from families already “bought in” to service, children or families with veterans.

This trend carries great danger for America. To reverse it will not be easy.

Pay and benefits must compete with the private sector. The military, schools and society must do more to work with young people to help them overcome obesity and other qualification challenges. And President Joe Biden, his administration, Congress and other leaders must do much more to portray military service as a virtue and an unqualified “good.”

This is not a transitory problem like a pandemic or one that will solve itself.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

Request for Proposal (RFP)
Small Business Energy Advantage

Eversource Energy Service Company ("Eversource"), and United Illuminating ("UI"), Connecticut Natural Gas ("CNG"), and Southern Connecticut Gas ("SCG") subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., referred to as the Companies, as administrators of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, are soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to install energy-efficient equipment measures for existing small business customers through the Small Business Energy Advantage Program (SBEA).

Interested contractors should submit their intent to bid to SBEACT@eversource.com and include your company name, primary contact name, phone number and email no later than Friday, April 8, 2022 after reviewing the program details below. Bid invitations will be coordinated through the Eversource Procurement Department. Interested contractors will need to register in Eversource's sourcing platform, ARIBA, in order to participate in the RFP. Instructions will be provided once you indicate your intent to bid.

Awarded contractors will be required to submit self-generated, qualified leads. They must conduct customer site assessments to evaluate the electrical, natural gas, oil and propane saving opportunities. Contractors shall have the ability to provide detail and coordinate installation for all potential Energy efficiency measures including, but not limited to, weatherization improvements, high-efficiency lighting with controls, advanced thermostats, refrigeration equipment with controls, variable frequency drives for operating equipment, HVAC equipment upgrades and energy management systems. They must also be capable to engage with a customized, internet based system provided by the Companies following training provided to all awarded contractors.

Those contractors submitting a bid will be evaluated on their ability to support the program through a dedicated sales staff plus an in-house team, audit and build projects. In addition, contractors will be asked to submit examples of previous energy efficiency comprehensive projects.

The Companies offer customer incentives for qualified energy-efficient installation services to offset a portion of the project costs. Zero percent, on-bill financing is also available for those customers who qualify. Not all utility customers qualify, and these offerings are limited to small businesses as defined by each utility within their program implementation manual.

A bidders conference call will be held on April 8, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to answer any questions prospective or current program contractors may have. The conference call will be open to qualified contractors willing to operate in Eversource and Avangrid/UI CT service territories.

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Request for Qualified Contractors
2022 Home Energy Solutions SM Program
Energy Efficiency Programs in Connecticut

Eversource Energy Service Company ("Eversource"), United Illuminating ("UI"), Connecticut Natural Gas ("CNG"), and Southern Connecticut Gas ("SCG") subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., are investor-owned utilities (collectively referred to as the Companies") in Connecticut. The Companies, as advised by The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board, are responsible for the implementation of cost-effective electric and natural gas weatherization and energy efficiency programs on behalf of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund ("The Fund") delivered through the Energize Connecticut Initiative. As administrators of the Fund, the Companies are soliciting qualified contractors to participate in a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") for the 2022 Home Energy Solutions program, the Companies' flagship residential energy efficiency program. The RFQ will be released on or around April 25, 2022.

Home Energy Solutions is a residential energy efficiency program that focuses on providing cost-effective in-home services and incentives that allow Connecticut's households to save energy and money without sacrificing comfort. The contractors play a vital role in the success of the Home Energy Solutions program and are expected to follow all prescribed guidelines to maximize the residential customer's energy savings. Selected contractors will be required to engage Connecticut's residential customers using established protocols to assess and directly install these energy efficiency services and products. There are twenty-eight Home Energy Solutions vendors participating in 2022. Any vendor that has a current contract with the Companies to provide HES services does not have to participate in this RFQ process and will continue to be eligible to operate in the program as long as minimum program requirements are satisfied.

The certifications and requirements that are necessary to be considered a qualified contractor, with qualified technicians, for purposes of the RFQ, include, but may not be limited to, certifications from the Building Performance Institute for "Building Analyst" and "Envelope Professional", the Environmental Protection Agency's certification for "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting" the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score Assessor, Home Improvement Salesperson license and the contractor must have a valid Connecticut Home Improvement Contractor license. In addition, selected contractors will be required to have minimum experience levels and meet the Companies' contractual Terms and Conditions.

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RFQ PROCESS, THE QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR MUST RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO THE EMAIL LISTED BELOW BY April 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM WIT "HES CONTRACTOR RFQ" IN THE SUBJECT LINE. Please provide the Company name, address, phone number, primary contact name information with a valid email address. The RFQ process will be internet-based and your notification will be through the valid email address that is provided.

E-mail: eeprocurement@eversource.com

Energize Connecticut is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local Electric and Gas Utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills
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Torrington CT Minority Opportunity - Silkdown Energy is currently soliciting SBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Torrington CT-Slaiby Village-Torrington Housing Authority. Trades; carpentry, shingle roofing, portable restrooms. Material Supply; flat stock metal, lumber. Our bid submits on Friday, April 1, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
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Connecticut

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at: <https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51>
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The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified consultant to provide project coordination services in the Parkville neighborhood. Please use the following link to access the RFP: <https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-22-2022-RFP-ParkvilleDevelopmentCoordinationServices.pdf>.
3/26 - 4/25/2022 7177253

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 868 Flanders Rd, Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on April 14th 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storage treasures.com:
Cube- 331- Whitney Doran
Cube- 401-Whitney Doran
7180701

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 1501 Route 12 Gales Ferry CT 06335 to satisfy a lien on April 14 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storage treasures.com:
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Cube- 2280- Janet Kertulla
Cube-2442- Tammy Hoffa-Strother
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TOWN OF FARMINGTON
TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission will hold an ONLINE public hearing Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

Scott Thompson application for special permit for expansion of home located at 125 Woodpond Road, R20.

Robert C. Scheehring, Jr. application for special permit for accessory apartment use at 119 Coppermine Road, R40 zone.

Pond, LLC application for change of zone from PR zone to Special Innovation Floating Zone (SIFZ) and site plan approval for multi-family apartment building at 74-76 Batterson Park Road.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this ONLINE Public Hearing. The link to this meeting may be found on the Town of Farmington's website at <https://www.farmington-ct.org/about-farmington/calendar-meetings>. A copy of this proposal is online at <https://www.farmington-ct.org/government/town-plan-zoning-commission/public-hearing-documents> or by calling the Planning Department at Farmington Town Hall at 860-675-2325.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut, this 24th day of March 2022.
TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION
Inez St. James, Chair
4/1, 4/7/2022 7182737



INVITATION TO BID/LEGAL NOTICE
SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
WBE/MBE/SBE AND SECTION 3 BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY
4/1/22 7182108

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

| | |
|--|--|
| Avon Carol A. Bernarduci | New Britain Zofia Szczewczyk Derrick Straughn |
| Bloomfield Mildred Greene | Other Towns in CT Gary J. Pouliot James A. Sweden |
| Bristol Carol A. Bernarduci Dominic T. DiVenere | South Windsor Ranjit Kurukulasuriya Leola Lamothe |
| Hartford Elsie B. McLaughlin | Tolland Leola Lamothe Ronni Zoback |
| Hebron Gary J. Pouliot | West Hartford Mildred Greene Elsie B. McLaughlin |
| Naples, FL Dominic T. DiVenere | |

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

DiVenere, Dominic T

Dominic Thomas DiVenere, born in 1931 in Bristol, Connecticut, to Vita Carmella (Pedone) DiVenere and Thomas DiVenere. Dom, passed away peacefully, with his wife Rae by his side, on March 28 in Naples, Florida.

Dominic graduated from Bristol High School in 1949 where he was voted "class heartbreaker," and served as a member of the Student Council and Vice President of his senior class. An accomplished athlete, he excelled in baseball, basketball, and soccer. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served from 1950-53.

Upon returning to Bristol, Dom married and began a long career as a mason with his father-in-law, Peter D'Aprile at D'Aprile and Sons Construction Company. Upon Peter's death, Dominic and his brother-in-law Jerold D'Aprile continued to run the business. Dominic eventually started numerous construction companies. Up before dawn and home for dinner, Dom took pride in his work and served as a mentor to many aspiring builders. He often said, "It's not work if you love what you do," and Dom loved building. An accomplished contractor, he built homes in Bristol, Southington, and Cheshire before moving onto the shoreline and along the Connecticut River. He was renowned for his masonry skills and would stop to appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of a meandering dry-stone wall. He was admired for his work ethic which led to his successful career.

In his earlier days, Dominic was an active member of both the Italian Social and the West End Athletic Clubs and served as a Bristol Fire Department Commissioner for many years.

In 1966 he had a vision to start a secretarial school, Briarwood, in Southington, constructing each building and laying each brick himself. Briarwood began granting two-year degrees in 1979 and eventually four-year degrees. He was particularly proud of the fact that the school became accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Briarwood was well known for its Mortuary Science program, which was the only one in Connecticut. Dominic, along with two partners, remained the owner of Briarwood College until 2008, at which time Lincoln Educational Services purchased the school.

An enthusiastic golfer, Dom was happiest when he was on the course with his friends and his family. He was a longstanding member of both Tunnix Plantation in Farmington, CT, and the Farms Country Club in Wallingford, CT; a charter member at Fox Hopyard, in East Haddam, CT; and a member of Countryside Country Club in Naples, FL. Dom especially enjoyed teaching his wife Rae the sport that brought him such joy. From the driving range to the putting green, Dom would kindly dispense advice. Bringing his two passions together, Dom was instrumental in constructing a community center in Bermuda for the Bermuda Police Department. What began as a golf outing with his friends ultimately became a special building project.


When not golfing, Dom could be found at Saratoga Race Course watching his racehorse Gilloju named after his three daughters, cheering on UConn's basketball teams, playing cards, solving the daily Sudoku puzzle, flipping political channels, or reading a news magazine. He was famous for recounting his pet peeves with anyone who would listen and often teased that he might one day write a book Things That Get My Butt Out (and if a bestseller, its sequel Things that REALLY Get My Butt Out.) Dom was a kind and generous man who welcomed others into his home and exemplified what it means to be a true friend.

Dominic was predeceased by his first wife Judith (D'Aprile) DiVenere; their daughter Lori DiVenere LaFrance; and his siblings Elizabeth DiVenere, Grace DiVenere Kovalski, Lillian DiVenere Thomas, Matthew DiVenere, and Peter DiVenere. He is survived by his wife of 26 years Rae DiVenere of Naples, Florida; his two daughters, Gina Swenton (Russell) of Bristol, CT, and Judith Beecher (Steve Cooke) of Boston, MA; his step-daughter Teresa Sullivan (Paul) of Madison, CT; his son-in-law Peter LaFrance of Bristol, CT; and his grandchildren, David Swenton (Ho-Mui Wong) of Brooklyn, NY; Elizabeth Hosman (Albert) of Plaistow, NH; Julia and Jocelyn Beecher of Boston, MA; Kelly Kant (Byran) of Salt Lake City, UT; and Charles, Lila, and Meryl Sullivan of Madison, CT; as well as his great-grandson Zachary Hosman of Plaistow, NH.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church in Essex, CT, on Monday, June 20 at 10 a.m. A reception will follow at The Griswold Inn. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Avow Hospice, 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, Florida 34105.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

MCLAUGHLIN, ELSIE B.



Elsie Birgit McLaughlin, 86, passed peacefully on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Elsie was born in Helsingborg, Sweden on July 6, 1935, daughter of the late Uno and Greta Svensson. Elsie left Sweden when she was 17 years old to marry Sven Swanson who was visiting Sweden that summer. She lived in West Hartford, CT where she raised her two children Rick Swanson of Narragansett, RI and Susan Swanson Decker of Narragansett, RI, both of whom survive her. In addition to her children, Elsie is survived by her three grandchildren Josh Swanson, Nikki Beebe-Center, and Maja Decker. Elsie married Paul McLaughlin in 1981 and they moved to Avon, CT. Elsie enjoyed gardening, making traditional Swedish foods, decorating her home, playing tennis, skiing and reading. Elsie and Paul traveled extensively throughout the US and Europe. A private service will be held at Avery Storti in Wakefield on Friday, April 1st from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.



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OBITUARIES

Greene, Mildred (Sohn)

Mildred (Sohn) Greene, 95, of West Hartford and formerly of Boca Raton and New York City passed away on March 29, 2022. Mildred was predeceased by her husband, Ellis, parents, Sam and Mary Sohn and brother, Sandy Sohn. Mildred finished high school at the age of 15 and then graduated Hunter College as a teacher. She taught for several years in NYC schools after the State passed special legislation allowing her to teach because she was underage for the existing law. She then worked as an administrative assistant to her husband Ellis, president of Dialight Corp. div of Norelco. Mildred is survived by her devoted and loving children Ellen Zelman (Steven) of Bloomfield and Mark Greene (Linda) of Haworth, NJ. She leaves grandchildren Brian Zelman (Johanna), Rachel Sanborn (Joseph), Jeremy Greene (Victoria), Alexis Kusinitz (Adam) and Evan Greene. She was blessed with great grandchildren, Noah and Joey Sanborn, Leila Zelman, Myles and Dylan Kusinitz and Kate Greene. An avid reader, Mildred always had a book or the NY Times in her hands. When Ellis died in 2005 she refused to give up his library card so she could take out twice the number of books otherwise allowed. Cruising and travel were her passion. If she could have, she would have lived her final years on a cruise ship. True to her teen-age crush, Frank Sinatra, her Sirius radio was only tuned to his station, and she lived his motto, "I did it my way". Funeral services will be held at Eternal Light Cemetery in Florida on April 1st. Shiva will be observed at Ellen's home on Saturday evening and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or American Diabetes Association.

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LaMothe, Leola "Lee" (Marquis)




Leola "Lee" R. (Marquis) LaMothe, 71, of South Windsor, loving wife of 43 years of Gerald "Jerry" D. LaMothe, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at their home. Lee was born on March 23, 1951, in Keegan, Maine to Lionel and Alfreda (Berube) Marquis. She was raised in Van Buren, attended local schools and was a graduate of Van Buren High School, Class of 1969.

Lee was employed as a Corporate Officer for over 18 years with W.J. Mountford, Inc. of South Windsor, until retiring in 2015. She excelled in a male-dominated field through grit and perseverance and her tough-as-nails approach to her work. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Margaret Mary Church. Lee enjoyed cooking, baking, and knitting but her greatest joy was spoiling her grandchildren and spending time with her large, extended family. She loved hosting her family for the holidays and her annual cookie decorating with her grandchildren will be sorely missed. Her ability to make everyone feel seen, safe, and loved made her a most-adored sister, mother, aunt, best friend, and Mémère. She accomplished everything she set out to do fiercely, with a wide smile and a belly laugh.


Preceded in death by her parents, Lionel and Alfreda Marquis, her brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Nina Marquis of Bakersfield, CA, her sister and brother-in-law, Joan and June Cyr of South Windsor, CT, her brother-in-law, Ben Clavette of Malden, and her brother-in-law, Bob Perron of East Hartford. She is survived by her loving husband Jerry, her son Travis LaMothe, his wife Amy and their daughter Cassidy of Belchertown, MA, and her daughter Heather Marquis, her wife, Julia and their children Jude and Jack of Tolland. Her sisters: Jean Dumont (Raymond), Priscilla Marquis, Pat Perron, Rose Clavette, Ann Zurrel (Ron), Brenda Hollis(Bob), and her stepmother, Laura Cormier of Maine.

A time of visitation for family and friends will be at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Road in South Windsor on Sunday, April 3, 2022, from 3-5 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 11:00 am at St. Margaret Mary Church, 80 Hayes Road in South Windsor. Burial will follow in Wapping Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave an online condolence please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Straughn, Derrick



Derrick L. Straughn, 41, of New Britain, Ct., passed away on Friday, March 18, 2022 as the result of a tragic motor vehicle accident. Born in New Britain, the son of Jacqueline (Parmenter) Straughn and the late Dallas Straughn, Jr. Derrick worked for many years as a landscaper.

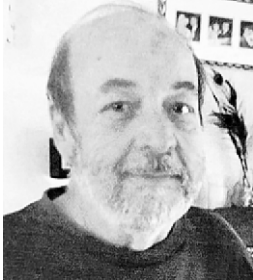
Besides his mother, he is survived by two sisters, Lorry (Michael) Grady of Simsbury and Sherry (Andrew) Brzoska of Burlington; his nieces, Chloe Brzoska and Amaryllys Grady and his nephews, Nicholas Brzoska, Thomas Brzoska and Aidan Grady.

Derrick, my heart is broken and the tears don't stop. You made me laugh like no one else could. I know you loved me as I loved you. I will remember the words you wrote in my birthday card this past September, "Remember will positive thoughts into existence". Rest with Papa, he will take care of you until we are together again in eternity. Love always, MOM

Burial was private and at the convenience of the family. The Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, New Britain, Ct. has charge of the arrangements. www.shakerfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries


Sweden, James A.




James A. Sweden 77, of Kensington passed away on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 after a brief illness. Born in Adena, Ohio a son of the late Alexander and Lillian (Burris) Sweden and a 1962 graduate of Adena High School. Jim is predeceased by two brothers and two sisters. Jim met his wife of 56 years, Janet (Faselle) Sweden after moving to Connecticut. He was a tool maker for Faselle Tool Company for 30 years. Jim is survived by his wife, two sons and daughters-in-law: Eric and (Marianne) Sweden of Raleigh, NC, David and (Kathy) Sweden of Newington one daughter and son-in-law: Cynthia and (Christopher) Lawrence of Wake Forest, NC., three grandchildren: Collin Lawrence, Olivia Sweden and Dayana Sweden and many nieces and nephews. Friends and family are invited to call on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Berlin Memorial Funeral Home, 96 Main St., Kensington, from 11:00 to 12:00 Noon. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Bernarduci, Carol A.




It is with great sadness, we announce the loss of our beloved mother, Carol Ann (Schantz) Bernarduci, 80, of West Hartford, CT. She passed peacefully in her home on March 28, 2022. Carol was born on October 11, 1941 in Wyckoff Heights, Ridgewood NY, the middle daughter of the late Fredrick and Delores Schantz. Carol will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Known for her quick wit and humor, she had a life filled with full-hearted love and irrepressible laughter. While her first marriage ended, it gave her a beautiful baby girl. As a single mother, she worked as a secretary where she met her husband, William Bernarduci, who wooed her by the water cooler singing Dean Martin's "On an Evening in Roma." They married in 1966 and had a set of twins. Eventually, Carol brought her family and her signature Queens accent to Connecticut, moving to Wolcott, then Bristol and later Avon. She had a tenacious strength and unshakable faith which helped her overcome many challenges. She worked as a secretary at Barnes Group for 26 years and took on a second job to put her children through college. She was a long-term survivor of breast, colon and lung cancer. After her husband's sudden death in 1997, she persevered as the rock of her family, always quick with a joke and a warm hug. Later in life, she grieved the loss of her devoted companion Bob Easton. Her life was active and involved. She was member of St. Joseph and St. Mary's Churches, a Girl Scout supporter, a Cub Scout den leader, the biggest fan of her son's wrestling teams, a volunteer at Big Sister Support and UCONN Medical Center, a member of the Avon Garden Club and Italian American Club where she enjoyed playing bocce and making pasta. She is survived by her children Elaine and Stephen J. Baranowski (Carmel, NY), William and Gina (Bolvin) Bernarduci (Boston, MA) and Robert and Miriam (Eriksson) Bernarduci (Avon, CT), and her sister Patricia Baker. She especially loved all of her grandchildren who called her "Grandma Santa Claus" because of her ability to spoil them. Caitlin, Stephen, and Alexandra Baranowski, Ella, Jesse, and Gina Bella Bernarduci. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday (April 2, 2022) at 11:30 AM at St. Joseph Church, 33 Queen St., Bristol. Burial will follow in the Peacedale Cemetery, Bristol. Relatives and friends may call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, on Saturday between 10 and 11 AM. Please visit Carol's memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.




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Kurukulasuriya, Ranjit

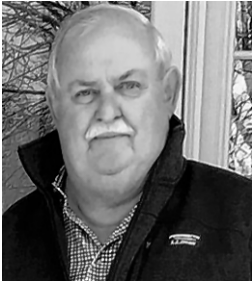


Ranjit Kurukulasuriya (Dr. Kuru), 80 yrs., passed away on March 26, 2022, at Manchester Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family. He fought a battle with cancer, but ultimately succumbed to complications of chemotherapy. He was born in Sri Lanka to Dr. and Mrs. KCD Perera (deceased). He attended medical school in Sri Lanka, moved to the U.S. in 1970 and practiced Internal Medicine in Connecticut until he retired in 2016. He was part of ProHealth Physicians in Manchester prior to his retirement. While in medical school he met his wife, Ranjani and they had two children, Hiran and Shamali. They settled down in South Windsor and have lived there for 42 years. He is survived by his wife Dr. Ranjani Kuru, son Hiran Kuru, daughter Shamali Kuru, son-in-law Dr. Rahul Deo and granddaughters Dhanya and Sailee. He is predeceased by his two brothers Malsiri and Athula. He is survived by his two sisters Manel and Anoja, two brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law. He enjoyed taking walks at Nevers Park, reading, cooking and was an ardent fan of the New England Patriots and both Men's and Women's UConn basketball. He was a gentle, giving, kind person and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Funeral services were held privately at the request of his family. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Pouliot, Gary J



Gary J. Pouliot, 69, of Columbia, passed away on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. He was the beloved husband of Mary (O'Connell) Pouliot for 42 years. Gary was born in Bridgeport to the late Roger and Claire Pouliot and grew up in the Devon section of Milford. He graduated from Jonathan Law High School and Central Connecticut State University with a marketing degree. Early in his career, he was vice president and co-owner of Northeast Copy Co. He then served as a sales executive in the granite industry for 25 years, most recently for Global Values Inc. Gary's interests included hunting, fishing, golf and rooting for the UConn women's basketball team. He was an excellent cook and enjoyed serving meals to friends and family. He also relished spending time at his second home in Cape Coral, FL. Gary had a sharp wit and was generous and kind with his family and friends. Besides his wife Mary, he is survived by his beloved daughter Megan Knight, wonderful son-in-law Jeffrey, and cherished granddaughter Madison. He also is survived by his brother Stephen Pouliot and his wife Janine, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives. Gary's family will receive relatives and friends at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Sunday, April 3, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 4, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church Street, Hebron. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gary's name to a charity of your choice. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
BRIAN B KULAS
04/01/1958 - 04/02/2004
Happy Heavenly Birthday Dad
You're in our thoughts and hearts.
We love you and miss you everyday.
Love,
Jamie and Jeanne

Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Positivity hits highest level in a month

BA.2 subvariant — more infectious than omicron strain — accounts for vast majority of new cases

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's COVID-19 test positivity rate stands at its highest level in more than a month, state numbers show, as the BA.2 subvariant accounts for a growing share of the state's new coronavirus cases.

Experts have increasingly cautioned about a coming uptick in

COVID-19 cases, which they have alternately classified as a "bump," "spike" or "surge."

Dr. Manisha Juthani, Connecticut's public health commissioner, said this week that she expects "some surge" in COVID-19 transmission but that it is difficult to predict how dramatic that increase might be. Dr. Scott Roberts from Yale New Haven Hospital said he envisions a "slow, ongoing uptick"

that won't match what the state experienced this winter but could still result in significant illness.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, is somewhat more optimistic, noting that BA.2 has been in Connecticut for several months and has yet to cause a dramatic spike.

"Everyone says 'We're waiting for the surge' — I don't think we'll see a surge," Wu said. "If anything, we'll see a rise in cases like we've seen over the last week and a half."

Given high levels of immunity from both vaccines and prior

illness, "a lot of people may get sick, they just may not end up at the hospital," Wu said.

So far, Connecticut's positivity rate has increased, as has its case counts, but hospitalizations remain at their lowest level in months. Meanwhile, the state reported 32 additional COVID-19 deaths over the past week Thursday, the fewest in a seven-day period since before Thanksgiving.

Experts have attributed Connecticut's recent increase in COVID-19 transmission to the BA.2 subvariant, which is more

infectious than the omicron strain to which it is related. According to Nathan Grubaugh, a researcher at the Yale School of Public Health, BA.2 accounted for 87% of cases in southern Connecticut last week.

Gov. Ned Lamont announced Thursday afternoon he planned to get his second COVID-19 booster shot Thursday night, just a day after federal regulators approved additional shots for residents 50 and older.

As of Thursday, second booster

Turn to Virus, Page 2

No-cause evictions spiked in pandemic

Filings have more than doubled; bill aiming to ban practice for some

By Ginny Monk
CT Mirror

Despite an overall decrease in the number of evictions in Connecticut during the pandemic, one type of eviction — the "no-cause" eviction, typically involving expiring lease agreements — has become increasingly common.

From August 2019 to February 2020, there were 992 no-cause evictions filed, about 9% of total eviction filings. From August 2021 to February 2022, there were 2,511 no-cause evictions filed, nearly 35% of total filings, according to data from the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

No-cause evictions typically involve expiring lease agreements, when the landlord wants the renter out and didn't make any claims of tenant fault, such as violation of the lease or missing rent payments.

A bill that passed through the Housing Committee earlier this month aims to do away with the practice for larger properties. House Bill 5233 would ban evictions without cause in buildings with five or more units or in mobile home parks and extend requirements that rent increases be fair and equitable to covered tenants.

Rent has spiked in Connecticut and nationally in recent months, which experts say is due in part to a lack of supply.

House Bill 5205, which also passed through the Housing Committee, would establish fair rent commissions in all towns with populations of 25,000 or more. These commissions would have the power to conduct studies and investigations and hold hearings.

Supporters say the eviction bill

Turn to Evictions, Page 2



In keeping with the petroliana theme at Berlin's Truck Bar, the stage features two long-out-of-service trucks. DON STACOM PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

Tradition at center stage

Berlin's new Truck Bar a retro-themed blend of truck, gas station memorabilia

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The bar looks a bit like an old-time Sinclair station, the backdrop for the stage is pair of rusty trucks, and rows of cornhole boards surround enough empty floor space for a small dining room.

Welcome to the new Truck Bar at 151 Webster Square Road in Berlin, a combination bar, entertainment center and pizza restaurant, all themed as a tribute to vintage trucks and gas stations.

Two centerpieces are a rusty blue GMC pickup and a Mobil

pump salvaged from a Higganum gas station; the pizza oven is designed to look like the back of a fire engine, and a jumbo Sunoco sign hangs on a wall.

Looking around at a weathered Esso emblem and an \$8,000 original Sinclair dinosaur, co-owner Merle McKenzie suggests the theme: petroliana.

"I think there's some vestige of my dad being a mechanic in the garage on Tolland Street in East Hartford," McKenzie said after a brief ceremony Thursday to mark the new business opening.

Turn to Bar, Page 2



The bar at the Truck Bar in Berlin is supported by rolling mechanics' tool carts. The venue features live music, games, pizza and beer.

"I think there's some vestige of my dad being a mechanic in the garage on Tolland Street in East Hartford ... The old stuff from that time resonates with me." — Merle McKenzie, co-owner of Truck Bar

Electronics-sniffing K-9, world's first, dies

Police dogs like Connecticut's Selma 'can track anything from a USB to a cellphone to a laptop'

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

The world's first electronics-sniffing police dog, state police K-9 Selma, has died, according to the Connecticut State Police.

She died of medical problems on Wednesday, troopers said.

Selma became the first electronics storage device detection K-9 on Oct. 4, 2013. The dogs are trained to detect certain chemicals in electronics that criminals may toss or hide.

Such dogs "can track anything from a USB to a cellphone to a laptop," Trooper Pedro Muniz said Thursday.

For example, he said, if a suspect has child porn on a hard drive hidden behind a wall, the specially-trained dogs can find it. Or if a suspect crashes a car, tosses a

cellphone into the woods and runs away, the K-9s can smell the device just like they would a missing kid or drugs.

The Connecticut State Police K9 Unit is the first in the world to train dogs in the detection of computer equipment. A chemist at the state forensic lab, Dr. Jack Hubbal, isolated a chemical compound that surrounds memory boards in all phones and computers, and another compound that was discovered on DVDs, CDs and floppy disks. K-9 trainers used the two compounds to train computer K-9 teams to search for electronic devices, the state police said.

Selma and her handler, Det. George Jupin, were graduates of the 161st K9 Training Troop. They were assigned to the Computer Crimes Unit.



Selma, a Connecticut State Police electronics-sniffing dog, has died. Selma is the first police dog in the world trained to detect electronic equipment, police say. COURTESY

Selma is the third police dog in the state to die recently. On Saturday, Enfield's high-achieving K-9, Nova, died, and Bristol police announced Tuesday that K-9 Murphy died.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Oxford couple agrees to repay relief money

\$100K in COVID aid used to buy vacation homes

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A married couple from Oxford has agreed to pay \$170,000 to settle a claim by the government that they spent federal emergency COVID-19 relief money they got to bail out a family beauty parlor on Florida real estate.

Federal law enforcement authorities said Janine and Gerard Carbonaro were given \$109,000 under the federal CARES act as working capital to support the Hair Attraction Design Team in Monroe, a business operated by Janine Carbonaro. When Gerard Carbonaro applied for the money, he agreed with terms requiring that he "use all the proceeds of this Loan solely as working capital to alleviate the economic injury" caused by COVID-19.

Instead, the couple used the money "to pay off the mortgage

of a residential property in Florida, and to purchase an additional residential property in Florida for personal investment purposes," the U.S. Attorney's office said.

The difference between the amount of money the couple received and what they paid as a settlement with the government is accounted for by interest and penalties, federal authorities said.

As part of their civil settlement agreement with the government, in addition to repaying the COVID relief funds the couple agreed to withdraw a pending application for a loan increase.

"The Justice Department and our federal investigative partners continue to uncover those who violated the terms of CARES Act business loan programs and misused the funds they received, and we are committed to

Turn to Relief, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Hartford man gets prison for dealing fentanyl, feds say

Staff report

A Hartford man was sentenced to prison Wednesday for distributing fentanyl, according to federal authorities.

Juan Laureano, also known as “Pito,” 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer in New Haven to a total of 18 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, according to federal authorities.

The case arose from an investigation by the FBI’s Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force and Hartford Police Department into alleged “drug trafficking and related criminal acts being committed by members and associates of the Los Solidos and Latin Kings street gangs in Hartford’s South End,” federal authorities said in a statement, citing court documents and statements made in court.

And, between January and April 2020, investigators “conducted multiple controlled purchases of fentanyl from Laure-

ano and his associate, Anthony Dones, in the vicinity of Dones’ Montrose Street residence,” federal authorities said in the statement.

Laureano and Dones were arrested on April 8, 2020, and a search of Dones’ residence revealed “a small quantity of fentanyl, items used to process and package narcotics for street sale, and a loaded .45 caliber pistol,” the statement said.

Laureano pleaded guilty on Oct. 15, 2021, to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and distribution, of fentanyl, federal authorities said in the statement.

Laureano is free on bond and is scheduled to report to prison on May 11, the statement said.

Dones pleaded guilty on March 15 to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and distribution, of fentanyl, and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, and awaits sentencing, federal authorities said in the statement.

Meriden music teacher charged with sex assault

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

A music teacher from Meriden has been charged with sexually assaulting one of his students who is a minor, the Wallingford Police Department said on Wednesday.

Adam R. Romo, 36, of 85 Bradley Ave. in Meriden, turned himself in on a warrant earlier this month and is charged with multiple counts of sexual assault, according to Wallingford police.

Romo allegedly assaulted one student — a minor whose age or gender were not released by police — several times while he was working as a Mariachi

music teacher in Wallingford, police said.

Police responded to a home on Washington Street in Wallingford about 10:40 a.m. Jan. 31 for reports of a sexual assault and began investigating. They found that Romo also allegedly made sexual advances toward other students, police said.

Romo is charged with two counts of second-degree sexual assault, two counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and six counts of risk of injury to a minor.

He has been released from custody on a \$50,000 bond and is scheduled to be arraigned in court in Meriden on Friday.

FAIRFIELD Man fatally struck by Metro-North train

A train struck and killed a man on the tracks near a Fairfield train station Wednesday, MTA police said.

According to police, the incident happened east of the Fairfield Metro Station about 3:45 p.m. The person was not autho-

rized to be on the tracks.

The MTA Police Department is investigating with help from Fairfield officers, police said.

The investigation continued Thursday, although train service was back to normal Thursday morning.

Rail commuters were delayed up to an hour by the incident, according to Metro-North alerts.

— Christine Dempsey

Bar

from Page 1

“We used to go there on Sundays and spend the day with him. I can still smell the gas and the oil. It was a great time for my older brother and me. The old stuff from that time resonates with me,” McKenzie said.

This is the second Truck Bar location for McKenzie and business partner Glenn Perra, friends since their days at East Hartford High School in the 1980s. The still run the original one in Higganum, but it’s only a third as large and its out-of-the-way location mean that except for cornhole league nights on Tuesdays, it’s open only Friday through Sunday.

“We picked this partly because of where it is,” McKenzie said of the new spot in Berlin, just off the Berlin Turnpike, and roughly in the dead center of the state.

Perra and McKenzie have been developing the Truck Bar concept after scoring a hit with their Montana Nights bars four years ago.

The Montana Nights theme combines a novelty activity — ax-throwing — with pizza and beer in a big, comfortable space heavy on informality. They now operate Montana Nights outlets in Southington, Newington and Orange, and their first franchisee is opening soon in Putnam.

Yelp reviewers give high marks to the fun factor at Montana Nights. The company’s website bills the bars as providing “analog experiences” in a digital world, serving people who are “longing for traditional camaraderie and community.” Perra and McKenzie see the Truck Bar venture as an extension of that.

“There’s something here for everybody,” Perra said, pointing out pool tables and retro arcade games including foosball and air hockey tables, darts, a racing simulator, pinball and a boxing machine. The most prominent feature is cornhole: About 20 boards line



A cornhole tournament space dominates the new Truck Bar in Berlin. DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT

IF YOU GO: The Truck Bar, at 151 Webster Road Square, Berlin is open Monday through Thursday 4 to 11 p.m.; Friday 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. to 1 a.m.; and Sunday 1 to 8 p.m. Information: thetruckbar.com/berlin/

both sides of an enormous open floor space that could easily be a club’s main dance floor.

“I would say this is the largest in the United States that’s an actual venue,” McKenzie told Berlin business leaders and community officials at the ceremony Thursday.

As the Montana Nights chain heavily promotes ax-throwing as both sport and family fun, the Truck Bar invites serious cornhole enthusiasts into a league but also welcomes those who’ve never played.

The Berlin space had been a vacant billiards hall for years before McKenzie and Perra leased it, Economic Development Director Chris Edge said. Both were familiar with the location from their time running an entirely

different kind of business nearby.

“About 12 or 13 years ago we opened a gym here in Berlin called Crossfit USA. I used to run by this building all the time,” McKenzie said. “We kind of got out of the fitness world and moved on to the entertainment world.”

At one of the Montana Nights locations, they put in an old truck and converted it to a bar, he said.

“It kind of resonated with everybody, they liked the look of it,” McKenzie said. “We started daydreaming about how to expand on that concept. Four years ago I sketched a drawing of that stage on a piece of paper. I said ‘I want a live music venue built around trucks,’ and here we are.”

Perra and McKenzie plan to book classic rock, Southern and country bands about twice a month. Just beyond the stage is the dining area centered around Square Peg Pizza’s wood-fired pizza oven, and alongside the bar are two private party rooms designed to resemble repair bays at a truck yard.

McKenzie and Perra decorate

their bars themselves, scouring Facebook Marketplace and other sources for original, vintage signs or memorabilia. They also visit the Brimfield Flea Market, which is held three times a year in Massachusetts as an extravaganza of antiques and collectibles.

Most of the items go back to the heyday of the gasoline era, the 1940s to 1970s. But some pieces, particularly the wall posters, are modern reproductions.

“This sign came off a liquor store, the Mobil pegasus,” McKenzie said. “Every piece has a story, that Mobil sign was a five-hour drive from New York. That Sinclair sign came off a 1940s Sinclair gas station. The Firestone sign came from Naugatuck.”

They took a pickup truck to Massachusetts to retrieve a massive outdoor Sunoco sign.

“I enjoy the hunt. That’s one of the most fun parts,” McKenzie said.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com

Virus

from Page 1

shots were available at pharmacies including CVS and Walgreens, as well as at physicians offices and public vaccine clinics.

Cases and positivity rate: Connecticut has reported 2,737 cases out of 82,471 tests over the past week, for a positivity rate of 3.3% — up from 2.8% the seven days prior and the highest in a seven-day period since February.

On Thursday, the state reported a single-day positivity rate of 4% for the first time since Feb. 24, though the state said that figure included 1,679 test results from January, of which 16.5% were positive.

Connecticut’s average of 391 daily cases over the past week is up slightly from recent weeks, though down from more than 10,000 at one point in January. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

As of Thursday, 20 of Connecticut’s 169 municipalities remain in the state’s “red alert” category, meaning they have averaged at least 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents over the past week.

Currently, Union is the Connecticut municipality with the highest rate of new COVID-19 cases, followed by Westport, Fairfield, Guilford and Madison.

Under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s new guidance, all eight Connecticut counties are recording “low” levels of COVID-19 transmission, meaning that masking is not considered necessary there.

Hospitalizations: As of Thursday, Connecticut had 88 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down 12 from a week prior and the fewest at a time since last July.

Many of those patients, officials say, are “incidental” cases, meaning they were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival.

Deaths: Connecticut reported 32 deaths over the past week on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,776.

That total was down from the 67 deaths the state announced the week prior and its fewest in a seven-day span since November. COVID-19 deaths, which typically lag other metrics by several weeks, have dipped in recent months and are now back to the levels the state experienced before its winter surge.

The United States has now recorded 980,421 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations: As of Thursday, 94.6% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 78.4% of all residents and 82.6% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, 50.9% of fully vaccinated residents have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Evictions

from Page 1

would keep people who haven’t done anything wrong in their homes.

“I believe that we find a solution that works for all our communities, and this is a bill that will simply make sure there is equal voice between property owners and tenants,” said state Rep. Quentin “Q” Williams, D-Middletown.

But landlord advocates say no-cause evictions are used to keep the peace at complexes by evicting tenants who bother their neighbors or to clear apartments for remodeling when tenants’ leases end. Opponents have also said the bill would violate property owners’ rights.

Evictions can have consequences that ripple beyond the loss of a particular apartment — disrupting social connections and school routines and harming mental health, studies have shown.

“Displacement of tenants has so many ramifications in people’s lives,” said Luke Melonakos-Harrison, a tenant organizer in New Haven.

Once an eviction is filed against a renter, it can also make it much more difficult for them to find a new place to rent in the future, experts have said.

“I think one of the biggest benefits [of the bill] is that if people

know that they can’t be evicted unless there is a reason, it allows them to enjoy a level of housing security that often doesn’t exist for tenants otherwise,” said Dahlia Romanow, a staff attorney at the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

Housing advocates say no-cause evictions have been used as retaliation to evict people who complain about sub-par living conditions or who try to form tenant unions.

John Souza, a Hartford County landlord and president of the Connecticut Coalition of Property Owners, said he uses no-cause to improve other tenants’ experiences at his complexes. It’s a last resort, in part because filing an eviction is expensive, he said.

“I don’t do it lightly. I do it because I have no other choice,” Souza added.

Souza said he thinks the number of no-cause evictions has gone up because of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order banning most nonpayment of rent evictions from September 2020 to August 2021. Connecticut also had state-level protections against such evictions.

Nonpayment of rent is among the most common reasons for eviction. The federal government instituted the ban to prevent a wave of evictions and slow the spread of COVID-19 by keeping people out of congregate living settings such as homeless shelters.

The statute that the bill on

no-cause evictions would change was instituted in the 1980s to require cause to evict the elderly and people with disabilities.

In written testimony on the bill, Souza said there is no other type of business “forced to renew a contract against their will, so why force housing providers?”

The Connecticut Realtors also opposed the bill, saying that many property owners put their rental properties on the market only for a set period of time.

“Disallowing any property owner from having the rights to make any decisions about their own property at the end of a contractual term is an encroachment on property rights,” the written testimony said.

Melonakos-Harrison said since he began working in tenant organizing, he’d seen no-cause evictions used as a tool to get union members out of their apartments and to keep people from complaining about living conditions. He said the bill would help even the balance of power between landlords and tenants.

“When that threat of eviction can be wielded by landlords, it scares a lot of tenants, even if they are living with really egregious living conditions,” Melonakos-Harrison said.

Ginny Monk is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

Relief

from Page 1

pursuing civil or criminal penalties against wrongdoers,” U.S. Attorney Leonard Boyle said.

“These individuals, motivated by greed, chose to defraud programs intended to bring relief to those in need,” said David Sundberg, special agent in charge for the state of Connecticut.



COURANT FILE PHOTO

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Longtime Associated Press photographer Bob Child, who died Wednesday, was misidentified in a photo on **Page 2** in Thursday’s edition. Child is shown above, third from right sitting on the floor, photographing a first-round NCAA Tournament women’s game at the Civic Center in Hartford in 2007.

CONNECTICUT

ELECTION 2022

Lamont targets taxes as campaign ramps up

In his first ad, governor says state is cutting them, despite millions in increases for General Fund

By Mark Pazniokas and Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

Gov. Ned Lamont’s first campaign ad offers an upbeat view of Connecticut’s finances that accurately portrays the state’s rapid turn from scary deficits to fat surpluses, yet it leaves a misimpression that no taxes have increased.

“For years, politicians couldn’t get it done — balance the budget without raising taxes,” Lamont says in the opening of the 30-second ad. “As a businessman, I knew we could prove them wrong.”

Lamont did succeed in not raising the tax rates most noticed by voters — the income tax and sales tax. And the Democratic governor has faced down progressives in his own party that prefer to see higher taxes on the wealthy.

But his first two-year budget included increased General Fund taxes and fees by \$220 million the first year and \$270 million the second, plus it added even more revenue by canceling or postponing scheduled tax cuts.

The budget added a 1% surcharge on prepared meals, broadened what is subject to the 6.35% sales tax and

reduced a tax credit for small and mid-sized businesses.

There also was a smaller item that annoyed consumers and produced ample fodder for talk radio: a 10-cent fee on plastic bags intended to encourage shoppers to shift to the reusable bags that have become ubiquitous.

Those are the items that generally do not provoke a debate over what they actually mean. But how should tax cuts that were postponed or canceled go on the governor’s record?

The legislature has a habit of scheduling tax cuts to take effect in the future when they presumably will become affordable — then canceling or postponing them when they are deemed unaffordable.

Postponed or canceled tax relief included benefits promised to retired teachers, property tax owners without dependents, and college graduates with degrees in science, technology, engineering or math.

A temporary surcharge on corporate income had a promised expiration date that came and went.

The biggest canceled tax cut was a \$516 million reduction in the hospital tax that even many in

the hospital industry were skeptical of ever seeing. The canceled cut was partly offset by supplemental payments to the industry.

Still, the net revenue increase to the state from the hospitals was \$417 million a year.

All told, the cancellation or postponement of previously approved tax cuts save the state more than \$620 million in each of the first two fiscal years of the Lamont administration.

A law passed last year would impose a highway use tax on heavy trucks, beginning in January 2023. It would cost between 2.5 cents and 17.5 cents per mile, depending on weight.

The governor’s campaign messaging is the work of SKDKnickerbocker, the Democratic consulting powerhouse whose clients include President Joe Biden. Their work for Lamont’s successful campaign in 2018 is a case study on the firm’s web site.

The rest of Lamont’s ad is based in fact, though it offers a conclusion that invites a certain debate between the governor and his presumptive Republican challenger, Bob Stefanowski.

“We turned a massive deficit into a \$3 billion surplus while investing in schools, health care and public safety. And now we are cutting your car tax and gas tax,” Lamont says. “A

balanced budget, lower taxes. Our state is strong and getting stronger.”

His claim of a deficit turning into a surplus is accurate, his proposed budget includes a cap on municipal car taxes, and he recently signed into law a three-month suspension of the state’s 25-cent-a-gallon gas tax.

Is the state strong and getting stronger?

Lamont and Stefanowski will hash that out from now until Nov. 8.

With a 2.5% increase in gross domestic product in the third quarter of 2021, Connecticut slightly outpaced the national growth of 2.3%. Tax revenues are strong, and the state is expecting another record surplus.

Unemployment dropped to 4.9% in February, according to the monthly report issued last week by the state Department of Labor. Connecticut has recovered 80.5% of the 289,400 jobs lost two years ago in the COVID-19 lockdown.

On the debit side, Connecticut still has deeply troubling structural fiscal problems, primarily from an unfunded pension liability that typically ranks among the worst in the U.S. on a per-capita basis.

Lamont’s first budget was balanced in part by restructuring contributions into two state pension funds, cutting expenses over the next two fiscal years but

shifting billions of dollars in contributions and interest onto taxpayers after 2032.

Surpluses since then have allowed him to pay down the pension debt, as required by law.

Aside from inflation, Lamont has been far luckier than his predecessor, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, on economic issues that often drive gubernatorial elections.

Lamont came to office with a \$1.2 billion cushion in the rainy day fund. Malloy began with an empty reserve, \$1 billion in an operating debt left by Gov. M. Jodi Rell and the 2010 legislature and 9% unemployment.

In his first year, Malloy and the legislature enacted more than \$1.8 billion in annual tax increases, one of the largest revenue bumps in state history. His luck stayed lousy, as the effects of the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009 lingered.

Actual tax receipts didn’t meet nonpartisan analysts’ projections during five of Malloy’s first six years in office. According to records from the state comptroller’s office, it was one of the slowest recoveries in state history.

Mark Pazniokas and Keith M. Phaneuf are reporters for The Connecticut Mirror (ctmirror.org/). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.



Customers hang out at the cafe tables in front of Capital Ice Cream on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. COURANT FILE PHOTO

Sweet plans ahead for Capital Ice Cream

Season opens with expansion; second location on horizon

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

The air still may be a bit chilly, but winter is officially over, which means Hartford’s Capital Ice Cream is opening for the season today.

“We bring the spring when our umbrellas open up,” said Chantell Boissiere-Kelly, who co-owns the shop at 389 Capitol Ave. with her husband Shane. “Once the atmosphere sees so much ice cream, the weather has to comply.”

The shop opens this year with a new sense of anticipation. The landlord of the 600-square-foot shop recently got a \$50,000 matching grant from the city’s Hart Lift program to invigorate vacant spaces.

Capital Ice Cream and its next-door neighbor — the equally tiny Story and Soil coffee roasters, which also was awarded a \$50,000 matching grant — are both expanding into unused space in their building.

“This infusion of money will ideally really help stimulate and help us get back to the progress that we were making two years ago



Chantell Boissiere-Kelly co-owns Capital Ice Cream with her husband, Shane. SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT

before the pandemic,” property owner Aaron Gill told The Courant when the grants were announced. “Without these funds, none of us would have been able to afford to do this right now.”

Boissiere-Kelly also is in the early planning stage of opening a second store in the city. It will be at 1281 Main St., across from Dunkin’ Donuts Park and next door to Semilla coffee shop, which opened last fall.

“In that space, we’ll have more space to offer more, birthday parties, youth engagement, community engagement. But that won’t happen until some time next year,” she said. “Capitol Avenue will always e our home and we are happy here, but we are excited about the new location.”

In the meantime, Boissiere-Kelly will fill the sidewalks with brightly colored tables and chairs westward on Capitol Avenue all the way to

Babcock Street.

“We are more than just ice cream. We are part of the community. We bring friends together. Especially now, after the pandemic, people have been apart for so long, they want those precious moments back,” she said.

The shop sells ice cream from Big Dipper in Prospect. Along with classic ice cream in dozens of flavors, this summer Capital also will sell vanilla and chocolate soft serve. “We started that late in the season last year,” she said.

The shop is known for its “Kindness Cone” program. Customers can “pay it forward” by paying for a cone in advance to be given free to customers who can’t afford one.

“We don’t want to say no to anyone who wants ice cream,” Boissiere-Kelly said. “Sometimes kids come in and ask for water and you know they don’t really want water. We ask if they want ice cream and they always say yes. It feels so good to give it to them.”

Capital Ice Cream will be open Fridays 4 to 8 p.m. and weekends 1 to 8 p.m. through April, expanding to Thursday to Sunday after that and seven days a week through the summer. The shop closes for the season in November.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Moose warning issued by police

Winchester residents urged to stay away from pregnant creature

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Police in Winchester are warning people not to stress out a pregnant moose, which is expected to remain in the area until her calf is born in May or June.

“We have been receiving continued complaints regarding the wild moose and people approaching and crowding the area,” police said in a Facebook post.

“It is nice to have such a celebrity in our town, but again we must advise everyone to stay away. The wild moose, while usually a docile creature, can be deadly when they feel threatened,” police warned. “An animal that has the potential to weigh over 1,000 pounds, can charge at you at speeds up to 40 miles per hour will cause significant injury or death.”

A pregnant moose is even more territorial and dangerous, police said, but overly curious humans also pose a danger to the animal and her fetus.

If the moose experiences continued heightened stress, she may abort the fetus, police said. Also, if the moose cannot be respected, it could be euthanized.

Without naming the area, police said people have been parking on and walking across a two-way, 45-mph roadway.

“If someone gets hit, or the moose enters the highway to escape the people harassing her,” police said, “it will result in a potentially serious or fatal car accident.”

Police said they will establish barriers to better protect the moose, “and enforcement will be taken in the future if the animal cannot be respected.”

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s wildlife viewer — bit.ly/3iOqxzj — shows seven moose sightings so far this year in Connecticut, mostly in the northwestern towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Norfolk and Winchester. Moose sightings are few and sporadic in the state.

The first sighting of a moose cow with calves in the state was reported in 2000 in Hartland. From 2000-07, at least 40 calves were born in the state (the number is limited to reported public sightings), according to DEEP. Other moose likely were born in Connecticut or dispersed into the state from Massachusetts.

For more information, visit portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Fact-Sheets/Moose.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

‘Husky Weekend’ declared as UConn heads to Final Four

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Gov. Ned Lamont wants so badly for Connecticut to show its Husky pride as the UConn women’s basketball team plays in the Final Four on Friday night that he issued a proclamation about it.

The governor has declared April 1-3 “Husky Weekend,” and he’s urging all residents to wear UConn

gear, display UConn flags and signs, and sport blue and white.

“The Huskies have been nothing short of inspirational and I am incredibly thrilled that they will be representing Connecticut on a national stage this weekend,” Lamont said Thursday. “These student-athletes have represented UConn with integrity, character and competitive excellence both on and off the court and are inspiring

many young basketball fans who want to follow in their footsteps.

“I urge all Connecticut residents to put on your blue and white and remind the nation why Connecticut is considered the college basketball capital of the world.”

Said Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz: “Their determination and grit are second to none, and their success off the court and in the classroom is just as impressive. I know I’ll

be wearing my UConn gear and I encourage everyone throughout our state to show their support with their blue and white.

“We wish them the best of luck this weekend. Let’s go Huskies!”

UConn is scheduled to play Stanford in the Final Four in Minneapolis at 9:30 p.m. on Friday.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Dorothy J. Cierniecki (22-00122)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated March 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Iwona aka Eva Fadgys, 30 Gildersleeve Avenue, Canton, CT 06019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on April 14, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storage treasures.com. Cube: 3023 Carol Allard, Cube 4167 Tamara German, Cube 3107 Hannah Riske, Cube 2179 Alexandria Polk, Cube 2011 Thaddeus Powers, Cube 3168 Darlene Colbert, Cube 3063 Michael Laster 7180719

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Nicholas H.T. Panke (22-0128)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated March 29, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Charles Wolfe, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Carol L. Panke
c/o Jeffrey S Rivard Esq.
Czeigio Daly Pope & Perri
15 Massorio Drive, Berlin, CT 06037

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lydia M. Ponzillo, AKA Lydia Mary Ponzillo (22-05151)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 29, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Raymond Gorneau, 8 Lochbourne Dr., CLINTON, CT 06413

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Daniel R. Misteri, AKA Daniel S. Misteri (22-00133)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated March 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

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The fiduciary is:
David S. Misteri c/o RICHARD H PENTORE, RICHARD H. PENTORE, 785 FARMINGTON AVE., KENSINGTON, CT 06037
4/1/2022 7181448

NOTICE OF Self Storage Sale

Please take notice FARMINGTON Storage, 155 Scott Swamp Road Farmington CT 06032, intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored to the following tenant at said facility.

The Sale will occur as an online auction Via www.Storage treasures.com on March 22 2022 at 11:00am.

Unless otherwise stated the content of the unit include a free-standing basketball hoop and metal shelf.

Shamari Eason, last known address: 235 Camp St Bristol, CT 06010.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

3/25, 4/1/2022 7171987

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lillian C. Dorval (22-00261)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated March 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Norman J. Dorval
c/o WYLAND DALE CLIFT, LAW OFFICE OF WYLAND DALE CLIFT, P.O. BOX 1, PLANTSVILLE, CT 06479
4/1/22 7180970

LEGAL NOTICE

CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Chester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing with virtual participation available on the Town website on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 PM at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT to hear the following:

Application for Special Exception: 9 Water Street, to convert the building from a bank to an ice cream shop. Applicant – High End Chester LLC

Details available on Town website or from zoningoffice@chesterct.org. At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard; written correspondence will be received and made a part of the record. Copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk for public view.

Bettie Perreault, Secretary
Dated at Chester, Connecticut this 1st day of April 2022.
4/1, 4/8/2022 7174397

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CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

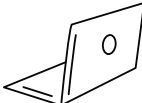
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Film's stars found heart in surreal action sci-fi

Core of 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' relationship of mom, daughter

By Jen Yamato
Los Angeles Times

Like all great epic tales, the breathtakingly zany "Everything Everywhere All at Once," starring Michelle Yeoh as a harried everywoman called upon to save the multiverse, is about a simple concept at its core: love.

Not that Evelyn Wang (Yeoh) has time for it. The struggling laundromat she runs with her sweetly goofy husband Waymond (Ke Huy Quan) is being audited, her elderly father Gong Gong (James Hong) has come to live with them, and she has no idea how to talk to her grown daughter Joy (Stephanie Hsu), ill-equipped to bridge the divide between her own immigrant journey and Joy's lens on life as a queer second-generation American woman.

To get to the heart of the thrillingly dense sci-fi action comedy from directing duo the Daniels (Dan Kwan and Daniel Scheinert), Evelyn must master interdimensional "verse-jumping" to tap into universes where alternate versions of herself are master chefs, international movie stars and even have hot dogs for fingers — all so she can face off against Joy's powerful and nihilistic alter ego, "Jobu Tupaki."

It's a movie about family, but it also digs into existential questions, says Yeoh: "Is it always better on the other side? If I had made a different choice, my life would be so different. My God, it could have been phenome-



Stephanie Hsu, from left, Ke Huy Quan, Michelle Yeoh and James Hong in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." ALLYSON RIGGS/A24

nal.' You can have this, but without that. What is it that matters to you?"

This interview with Yeoh and Hsu has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: The central characters in this epic story are Evelyn Wang, a very stressed-out laundromat owner, and her daughter Joy. There's obvious love between them, but also such intergenerational misunderstanding and miscommunication. How did you relate to these women?

Hsu: What I love about this story and these two women is that they are quite ordinary, and that makes them extraordinary in some way. But they're incredibly imperfect. They're both trying to find each other and cross this great bridge between them, but failing

miserably. And it somehow takes having to go to every single universe to be able to finally realize that the one they have got is the one that they need and perfect in all of its messiness. ... the Daniels, they love strong women. This movie is, I think, for all the strong women in their lives. And when you're a strong woman, I think vulnerability is scary. Vulnerability can be really powerful, but it can also be scary — especially if you're an immigrant. ... The mother-daughter relationship is one that I haven't seen much of and told like this in such a messy, honest way.

Q: Michelle, how did the Daniels convey to you the scope of their vision for the film and who Evelyn was as the center of this chaotic multiverse?

Yeoh: I read the script and had an inkling of what they were talking about. But only when I met them did I understand the passion they had and why they wanted to tell a story like this. We never see mothers this age, older women, as superheroes. You see men no matter what age as a superhero. ... Evelyn doesn't really know how to tell her daughter why she's doing all these things. Everything is for (Joy), the way she loves her. But all she knows how to say is, "You should cut your hair, you should lose weight, you should do this." It's not superficial to her because she believes she's trying to make you a better person. I think that's what all mothers do.

Q: What was going through your mind as you read the script?

Y: The first pass when you read it was a little overwhelming because it's this and that and what?! Hot dog fingers? And you go, "OK. I'm going to take a step back." Then I watched "Swiss Army Man" and began to understand what kinds of worlds the Daniels, these two boys, play around in. It's not the multiverses that really matter, it's the characters. The one thing that stays with you is that emotion of love. That is what we are looking for through all the craziness, whatever chaos it is.

Q: Stephanie, you'd worked with the Daniels before. Did that give you an inkling of what to bring to your character of Joy and her interdimensional alter ego, "Jobu Tupaki"?

H: They called me and they were like, "Hey, we're

working on this movie." I had no idea Michelle was attached. I had zero concept of A24. I just was like, "I'll do anything you guys want because I think you're so brilliant." So reading the script, I had a window into their sense of humor already ... I was like, "I get it. Anything can happen, so everything is going to happen."

Q: Michelle, how did you and Jamie Lee Curtis find such genuine tenderness in the universe where people have hot dogs for fingers?

Y: That's a crazy universe where we have evolved to the point where we have long digits, which are useless ... so we learn to play the piano with our feet. But the expression of love between two people is the same. It's that wanting to be loved, sharing the love and the commitment of being together. The hot dog dance with Jamie Lee Curtis, at first we were like, "Oh, you've got to be kidding me, right?" We went at it with such love, because it was a ritual; this was the way they expressed love for each other. It was their lovemaking scene. We thought you guys might find it ridiculous, but we are very sincere. And the way we went was hysterical.

H: I think that's why the movie works, why you feel like as an audience member you're still holding on to the thread. You're watching this thing that is profoundly weird, but you find your heart and your whole emotional self really invested. There's also a cultural specificity to Evelyn and Joy's lives as Chinese American women that we very rarely see in Hollywood films, not just woven into the fabric of their home life but in their intergenerational dynamic.

CELEBRITIES

Sykes on the slap: 'It was sickening'

From news services

Wanda Sykes said she felt physically ill after Will Smith slapped Chris Rock across the face at the Oscars, and she's angry Smith was permitted to stay and collect his award. Sykes, who co-hosted with Amy Schumer and Regina Hall on Sunday, told Ellen DeGeneres in an interview set to air April 7 that she missed the confrontation live as she walked between her trailer and the theater after a costume change.

"Then someone showed me on the video," Sykes said, "and I just felt so awful for my friend, Chris. It was sickening. I physically felt ill, and I'm still a little traumatized by it."

Smith walked up to Rock and slapped him after the comedian made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Soon after, Smith won his first Academy Award for "King Richard" and gave a tearful acceptance speech in which he apologized but not directly to Rock. That came in a statement on Monday.

Sykes, in a video released of her interview by "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," said letting Smith stay and accept his award should not have happened.

"This is the wrong message. You assault somebody, and you get escorted out the building, and that's it. But for them to let him continue, I thought it was gross."

Schumer, in a since-deleted Instagram post, said she was "triggered and traumatized" by what happened.

"I love my friend @chrisrock and believe he handled it like a pro. Stayed up there and gave an Oscar to his friend @questlove and the whole thing was so disturbing," she wrote. "So much pain in @willsmith anyway I'm still in shock and stunned and sad."



Wanda Sykes is seen Tuesday during a "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" taping in California. MICHAEL ROZMAN/WARNER BROS.

Fox News hires Jenner: Fox News Channel says it has hired Caitlyn Jenner as a contributor, and her first appearance was set for Thursday on Sean Hannity's program.

The network said Jenner will offer commentary and analysis across various Fox News Media platforms. Jenner won the Olympic gold medal in the decathlon in 1976. She later came out as a transgender and identifies as a female.

She said in a statement she was "humbled by this unique opportunity" to speak directly to Fox's audience.

Moynihan to release picture book: Bobby Moynihan, the former "Saturday Night Live" star, has written a children's book. Moynihan's picture story "Not All Sheep Are Boring!" will be published Sept. 20 by Putnam Books for Young Readers. Julie Rowan-Zoch is providing illustrations for a book featuring adventure-seeking, jetpack-wearing sheep.

"I am pleased as punch to help this little Toad tell his story, 'Not All Sheep are Boring!' Also, just a

reminder to keep an eye on Pierre the Sheep. He's shifty," Moynihan said in a statement Thursday.

Baldwins expecting 7th child: After a nearly monthlong social media break, Hilaria Baldwin announced Tuesday on Instagram that she's expecting her seventh child with husband, Alec. Hilaria Baldwin said she's due this fall. Alec Baldwin quickly reposted her reveal.

"We were pretty sure our family was complete, and we're beyond happy with this surprise," Hilaria wrote.

Alec is also the father of daughter, Ireland Baldwin, 26, with his first wife, Kim Basinger.

April 1 birthdays: Actor Don Hastings is 88. Actor Ali MacGraw is 83. Singer Rudolph Isley is 83. Actor Annette O'Toole is 70. Singer Susan Boyle is 61. Actor Jessica Collins is 51. TV host Rachel Maddow is 49. Actor David Oyelowo is 46. Actor Taran Killam is 40. Actor Matt Lanter is 39. Singer Hillary Scott is 36. Actor Asa Butterfield is 25.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Friendship falters following anti-vax posts

Dear Amy: I met "Shari" through other friends. We got along well and always had a great time. However, once the pandemic hit, I started to see a different side of her.

She is anti-vax and has refused to acknowledge the seriousness of the pandemic. She has ramped up the anti-vax posts on social media.

I did send her a message about one post, stating that it wasn't true, and she sent a tirade back at me, rehashing a number of points about COVID-19 and the vaccine that are all untrue.

I don't make friends easily. I have serious trust issues, but I don't see being able to maintain a friendship with someone who is so diametrically opposed to my values and views.

I am willing to accept her being against vaccinations, but she is posting pure falsehoods, and is argumentative when called out with facts, stating that anyone who disagrees with her is brainwashed by the government and media.

I keep thinking that once we get past the pandemic, maybe things will be better. I try not to bring it up, but when I see some of the posts, and when we are together with friends, it comes up. I put my head down and keep quiet, but this is eating me up.

My challenge is — how do I end the friendship? I am afraid to end it, as we are part of a group of friends, and if I need to pull my friendship away from her, I will lose those friends, who are my only friends right now.

But I wonder if being alone would be better than this.

— Stuck

Dear Amy: You see this as an "all or nothing" situation, where because of this person's behavior, all of your other friendships are at risk, but she is not in charge of your other relationships. You are.

You should completely disengage from her on social media. She is not reasonable and does not want to engage in an exchange of ideas, so remove your access to her on this platform. Quietly "hide," "block" or "unfriend."

There is no need to abruptly end the friendship by declaring it to be over. You simply need to back away from the relationship. Detach from her. If she asks you why you are distant, you can truthfully tell her that you've become exhausted by her declarations and tirades, which run counter to your own values.

Dear Amy: My mother-in-law is a smoker. Her own house is permeated with the smell of cigarettes. Even though I don't like it, I can handle this when we're visiting.

I know it is her house, and she has the right to do what she wants when she's at home, but I cannot stand it when she lights up at our place. We have a balcony, and I am fine with her smoking on the balcony, but — please — not in our townhouse. My husband doesn't want to say anything to her, but I do.

Do you have any ideas? — Puffed-Out

Dear Puffed-Out: Smoking anywhere indoors has become so rare that at this point it is almost taboo. Many rental units and

condo associations ban smoking — even inside units — because of the risks associated with second-hand smoke. You should check to see if there are any rules within your townhouse development, and if even smoking on a balcony is permitted (balconies are sometimes considered "common areas"). If smoking is banned inside units where you live, you should notify your mother-in-law.

Otherwise, even if your husband won't say anything to his mother, you should.

Keep your tone neutral, and simply say: "I hope you won't mind standing outside to smoke."

If she says, "Why yes, I do mind," you'll have to say — "Well, smoke really bothers me, so I'd appreciate it if you could do that for me."

Dear Amy: The writer signing her question: "Just Say: Get Well Soon!" said she had shared the fact that she was getting surgery on Facebook, but she didn't like the fact that one friend queried her about the details. Thank you for pointing out the obvious: When you post personal news on social media, you don't get to control how people respond!

— Aggravated

Dear Aggravated: My own life without a personal Facebook presence (I maintain a professional page) has been a little less colorful, but a lot less aggravating.

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Ladies of Plush rock harder than most anyone

All-female metal quartet puts to rest misogynistic notion

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

It started slowly, as the opening band's intro music played to a quiet audience at Atlantic City's Tropicana casino in New Jersey. Plush ripped into its opening number, "Athena," pounding away at power chords and sending vocals soaring into the rafters. Just before the guitar solo, everything stopped while singer and rhythm guitarist Moriah Formica played a dramatic chord, and the first whoops emanated from the crowd.

The crowd roared in recognition of the band's cover of Heart's "Barracuda," on which Formica uncannily channels Ann Wilson (something few singers on this planet can do) and cheered even louder at its completion.

Each successive song got more applause until the end of its 30-minute set left much of the crowd on its feet, giving a standing ovation to a band few of them had heard of when they bought tickets to see the headliner, Slash.

It has been like this for months now, for Plush, the all-female, impossibly young metal quartet from upstate New York that is breathing new life into hard rock and putting to rest, once and for all, the misguided and misogynistic notion that girls can't rock as hard as guys.

Anyone who has ever heard Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, Joan Jett, Lita Ford, Deborah Harry of Blondie, Pat Benatar, Janis Joplin, Starship's Grace Slick, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders, Melissa Etheridge or Tina Turner knows just how ridiculous that viewpoint is. And yet it persists in some quarters.

"Rock 'n' roll is thought to be a hard, aggressive, just in-your-face kind of



Plush bassist Ashley Suppa, left, singer-guitarist Moriah Formica and lead guitarist Bella Perron perform on March 11 in New Jersey. WAYNE PARRY/AP

rawness," said Formica. "Unfortunately, a lot of people think women aren't aggressive. There are women who rock — and rock hard — but it's still like, 'It's a girl, it's laughable.' That's a big reason why women haven't necessarily been as recognized as men in rock because they're not 'hard enough,' which is so untrue. Women can be freakin' vicious!"

Plush is vicious, melodic, sensitive and bombastic, all at once. Its self-titled debut album last October was loved by critics, and the band has been touring virtually non-stop with the likes of Halestorm and Evanescence — woman-led bands who are idols to all four members of Plush — as well as gigs with Daughtry, Sevendust, Mammoth WVH and most recently Slash.

Their influences also include female rock icons,

but these young women cut their musical teeth on the likes of Led Zeppelin, Kiss, Aerosmith, Black Sabbath, Alice In Chains and Skid Row.

They've clearly done their homework on what came before. Lead guitarist Bella Perron (the Maine native is the only non-New Yorker in Plush) grew up thinking Kiss guitarist Ace Frehley "was just the coolest human being on the planet." Asked for the best guitar riff in history, she immediately offered up Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love." Her favorite solo is Randy Rhoads' mind-melting shred in Ozzy Osbourne's "Over The Mountain."

Bassist Ashley Suppa's favorite bass line is the bouncy, melodic foundation of Paul McCartney's "Silly Love Songs," and there's no cooler drum intro for Brooke Colucci than Zep's

"When the Levee Breaks." They've also mastered the tiny details, from Perron's finger-flick riff during the second verse of "Barracuda" to her high leg kick to punctuate a particular power chord — things Heart's Nancy Wilson has done for decades.

And the rock-star poses and hair-flings seem to come second nature to the young women, to the point where it seems like they've been doing this for 30 years. (Formica is 21, and the other three are just 19.)

"A year ago, I was in high school," said Colucci. "I had no idea what it was like going out on the road, putting out music. It's a lot of work. But it's fun work."

"Now is just a really exciting time for rock," Perron said. "I got into Halestorm when I was 12, and Nita Strauss had just joined Alice Cooper. They were my first female guitar

players to look up to. It's really important to support women in rock and stick together and inspire young people to just go for their dreams, no matter if there's something stacked against them."

"It's amazing to see this platform become more feminine," added Suppa, the booming bassist who appears to be on a mission to single-handedly bring bell bottoms back. "It's predominantly been a male-dominated thing. It's been really nice to be part of this sisterhood with the women we've met."

Their music deals with the dark side of relationships, but almost every song ends with the protagonist realizing she's in a no-win situation, cutting her losses and moving on.

"It's easy for people to say, 'Oh, I'm heartbroken, this is the end of the world,'" Formica, who

wrote the band's first single, "Hate," about a failed relationship. "And it is, for a second. But stuff has to go on. Pick yourself back up and just keep going, because if you don't, nobody else is going to. I talk about really dark stuff, but in the end, it's all about overcoming."

And even though three-quarters of the band isn't old enough yet to legally drink, the members are already thinking of their legacy, particularly when it comes to the next generation of young girls thinking of picking up guitars or drumsticks.

"The thought of being that inspiration for another young woman is just amazing," Formica said. "We receive (direct messages) from people like, 'My granddaughter loves you guys and wanted to play guitar but she didn't think it was something she could do until she saw you.'"

TV REVIEW

Love triangle fails to sizzle in second season of 'Bridgerton'

By Neal Justin
Minneapolis Star Tribune

"Three's Company" lost its zing with the departure of Suzanne Somers. "Charlie's Angels" was never the same after Farrah Fawcett left. "Bridgerton" may be facing the same dilemma.

The period drama, which debuted on Christmas Day in 2020, became one of the most popular series in Netflix history thanks largely to the presence of Rege-Jean Page. He rocked so hard in the role of the Duke of Hastings that the relatively unknown actor ended up hosting "Saturday Night Live" two months later.

But in season two's eight new episodes, now streaming, the Duke is nowhere to be found. His love interest, Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor), is so inconsequential that she might as well be hanging around just to serve tea.

The main character this time is Daphne's oldest brother Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), who approaches searching for a wife like it's his turn to clean the outhouse. Like many suitors in Regency-era London (1811-1820), he's more concerned about a potential mate's child-bearing hips than her brains.

He finally narrows his prospects to Edwina (Charithra Chandran), a character so bubbly she'll remind you of Cameron Diaz in "My Best Friend's Wedding." When Anthony fetches her lemonade and asks her for a second dance at the queen's version of the Met Gala, it's practically a proposal.

But Anthony can't stop obsessing over Edwina's stubborn sister Kate (Simone Ashley). There's something about the way she whistles at horse races



Jonathan Bailey as Anthony Bridgerton and Simone Ashley as Kate Sharma in "Bridgerton." LIAM DANIEL/NETFLIX

and sends his ball flying during a heated round of croquet that makes his heart skip a beat.

Watching their bickering transform into heavy breathing can be a jolly good time, especially in the utopia created by executive producer Shonda Rhimes and her lovesick team, which includes lead writer Chris Van Dusen.

This is escapism TV, a world where racial discrimination doesn't exist and chamber quartets swap Beethoven out for Madonna. Almost every character has at least a teensy fortune; it's all upstairs, no downstairs.

What's missing are the sparks.

It's not the actors' fault as the entire cast is drop-dead gorgeous.

But you can't help but keep thinking that the two new leads are understudies trying in vain to repeat last season's magic. You can practically taste the writers' desperation in wanting to repackage an old gift. One side plot involving a sibling's quest to become an erotic painter seems like an excuse to justify a flash of nudity.

Some of the old "Bridgerton" tricks still work. Julie Andrews remains a hoot as the show's narrator, delivering her saucy lines with the zest of a phone-sex operator working on commission. You'll continue to root for Penelope (Nicola Coughlan), the underappreciated socialite who is secretly driving the queen up the castle walls with her 19th-century version of TMZ.

But the second season's greatest draw is fairly new. Eloise Bridgerton (Claudia Jessie) was around last year, but we now get to learn more about her rebellious character, who always looks like she's dying to get out of her corset and change into jeans and a T-shirt.

In the series most hilarious scene, she stiffens when a potential suitor asks her for a dance.

"May I have the honor?" he asks.

"Of what," she responds with the perfect blend of bewilderment and bravado.

Now, that's hot.

Where to watch: Netflix

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): They're playing your song, Aries! You're no stranger to the power of being creative, and today you can use your innate boldness to your benefit. Don't try to imitate when it's your turn because your best, most genuine self perfectly fits the energy of the day.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your stamina could be put to the test today. The tasks that you have to complete before the day is done may be piling up. Whether you didn't get enough sleep last night or you're just not feeling it, don't try to do more than you're able. Saying no won't make you a bad person.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): You can get by with a little help from your friends. An upcoming project might be looming in your mind, and asking a friend for advice can help. Once you hear yourself explaining your circumstances, there's a good chance that you'll realize it's not as scary as you think.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Now is not the time to let anyone hold you back. You've got enough momentum to make a good-sized dent in the tasks that you have. Letting everyone know your business could end up delaying you. Make sure that the important business stays on a need-to-know basis.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On April 1, 1891, the Wrigley Co. was founded in Chicago.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Nature is calling your name! It may not feel like the right time to take a break, but adventure is out there. Your routine may be creating stagnancy for you, and your heart probably wants to break out. Whether you plan a trip on foreign shores or a simple day trip, take some friends and catch up.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Transformation doesn't happen overnight. You may feel a burst of momentum toward improving your health or breaking a bad habit. Use your skills to figure out a plan of action, and once you're in a rhythm, you might not even notice the good habits naturally forming.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Creativity is currently at your doorstep, asking you to let it in! You have an opportunity to express yourself creatively now, and it's a bonus if you make something meaningful for someone that you love. Use your unique skills to show your appreciation of someone special in your life.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Everyday life can be a chore. Your routine is likely to go by faster and with fewer bumps in the road today. Your routine is reliable, and you could be coming out of a hectic time, making you thankful that life is back to normal. Don't be afraid to romanticize your daily life!

In 1972, the first Major League Baseball players' strike began; it lasted 12 days.

In 1976, Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

In 1977, the U.S. Senate followed the example of the House of Representatives by adopting a code of ethics requiring full finan-

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time to let the sunshine in, literally and metaphorically. This is a great time to have fun, express yourself and connect with your friends. However, you can be prone to distraction. If there's something that needs to get done, don't wait until the last second. Go and get it out of the way!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Home is where your heart is, and your surroundings should reflect that. That room that you've been hesitating to clean or that decorating that you've been procrastinating? It's time to get into them. Reevaluating the energy flow in your home can make all the difference.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The electricity of today is palpable — for better or for worse. You may be feeling extra excitable, and without providing an outlet for that energy, you could end up feeling anxious. Going for a run, cleaning your house, or just dancing in your room can help you release any jitters.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotionally charged day might be in store for you. A loved one might be the cause of these strong feelings — you can be their shoulder to cry on. Try not to attach yourself too strongly to your feelings. Just let them flow through you and be present for your friend.

cial disclosure and limits on outside income.

In 2012, Taylor Swift was named entertainer of the year for the second year in a row at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

In 2016, world leaders ended a nuclear security summit by declaring progress in safeguarding nuclear materials sought by terrorists.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

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Level:

1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

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7/15/17

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: material world

332

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

B U C K S K I N G I N G H A M F Y M
W W O O L P O P L I N O T T O C N I
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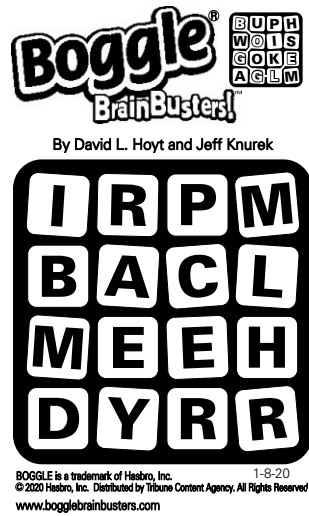
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DENIM
DRALON
ELASTIC
FABRIC
FELT
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GABERDINE
GINGHAM
RAYON
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VELOUR
VELVET
WOOL

BOGGLE



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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

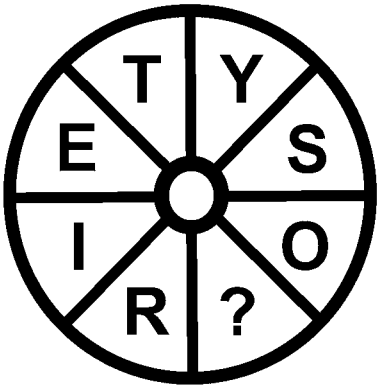
BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE TREES in the grid of letters.

ELM BIRCH MAPLE BEECH CHERRY

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/18/17

ACROSS

- 1 "___ Bloods"
5 "Good Morning America" network
8 "You ___?"; Lurch's line on "The Addams Family"
9 Last name of the family on "Sister Wives"
12 Paved terrace next to a house
13 Colorful rum cocktail
14 "By the Time ___ to Phoenix"
15 "___ the Nation"
16 Actor Ayres
18 Suffix for heir or count
19 ___ Dalton; role on "MacGyver"
20 "The Seven Year ___"; film for Marilyn Monroe
21 Part of the foot
23 "Hush...Hush, ___ Charlotte"
24 Geometric shape
25 "Yes, ___"
26 Cedar Rapids resident
28 "The Sun ___ Rises"; Tyrone Power movie
29 "Batman v Superman: ___ of Justice"; Ben Affleck film
30 ___ Scotia

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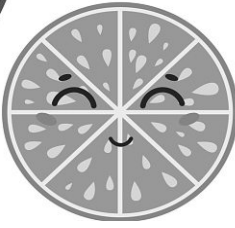
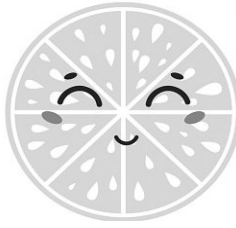
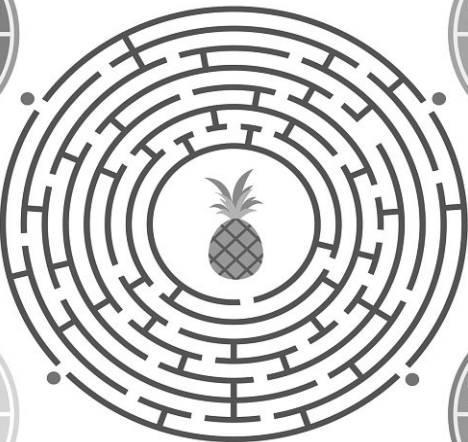
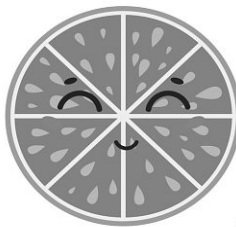
6/25/17

- 32 Tasty sandwich, for short
35 Start of "The Streets of Laredo"
36 "Where Eagles ___"; film for Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton
37 Actor Kristofferson
38 "___ I Love My Wife"; Chris Rock movie
40 Actress Pressly of "Mom"
41 Martin or Charlie
42 School in El Paso, for short
43 Pig's home
44 Bills with Hamilton's face

DOWN

- 1 Boasts
2 "The Late ___ James Corden"
3 "Law & Order: Special Victims ___"
4 Sense of self-esteem
5 Taken ___; surprised
6 Soft cheese
7 Rollaway bed
10 Lead role on "Scorpion"
11 Brother's daughter
12 Dessert choice
13 "The Bernie ___ Show"
15 "The ___ Guy"; Lee Majors series
17 President Taft's monogram
19 Stapleton or Smart
20 "___ a Male War Bride"; Cary Grant movie
22 ___ Roe of "Madam Secretary"
23 Actress Ward
25 Actor Annable
26 Actress and director Lupino
27 Desert refuge
30 Mary Poppins or Fran Fine
31 Mork's planet
33 Walks haltingly
34 Poet Eliot's initials
36 Count calories
37 Mum to George and Charlotte
39 "___ Just Not That Into You"
40 Stick out

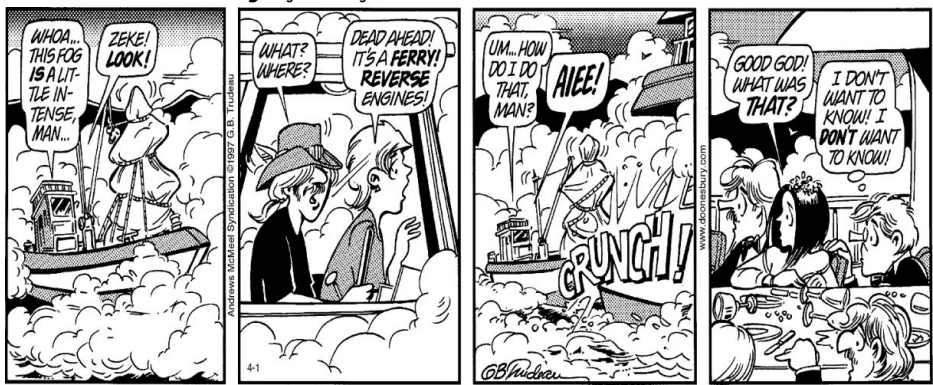
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



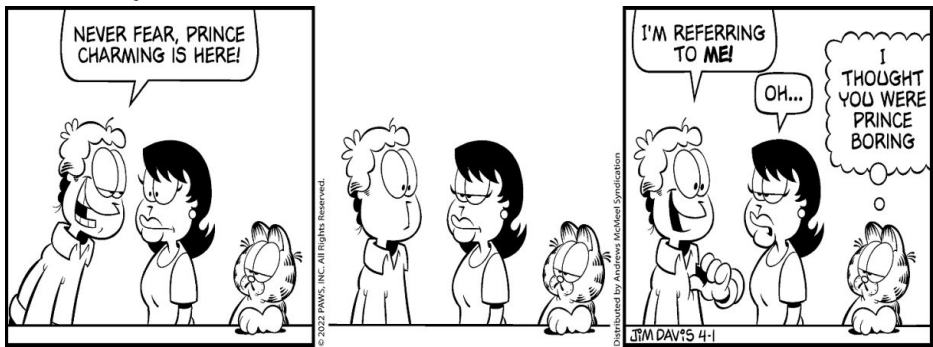
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



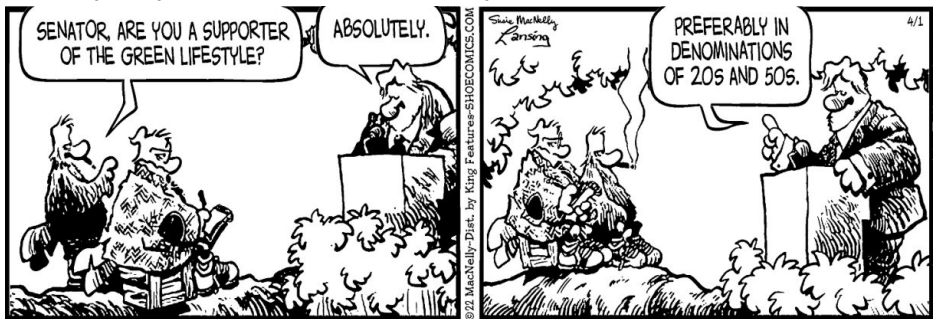
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



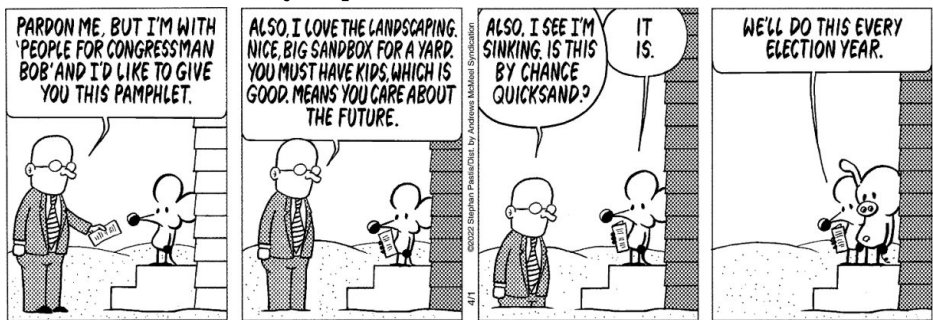
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



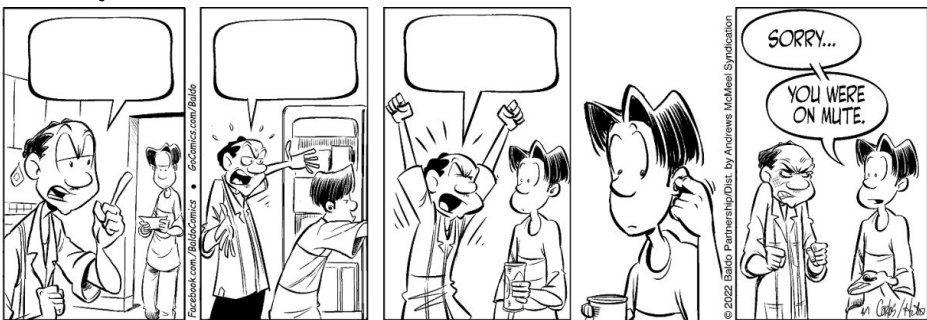
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



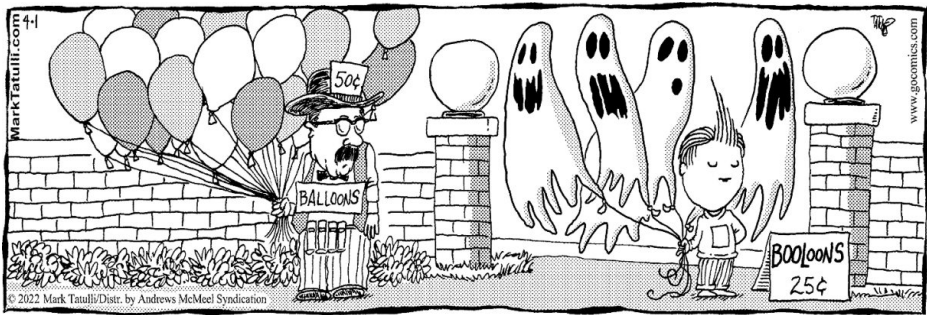
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



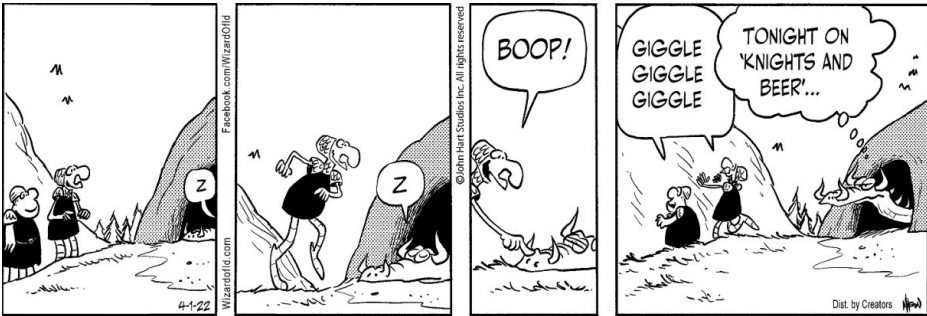
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



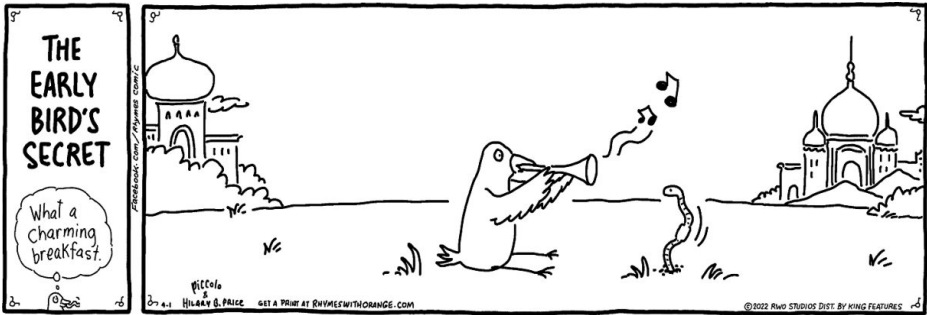
Lio By Mark Tatulli



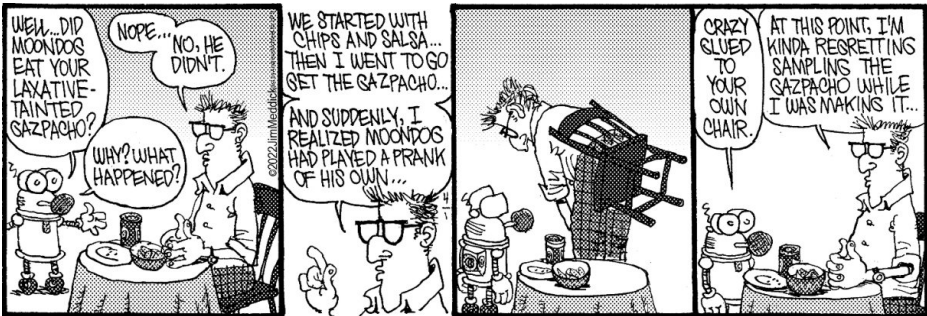
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



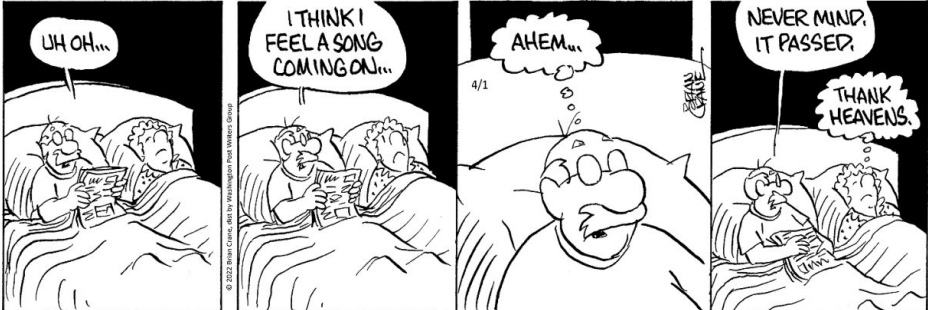
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



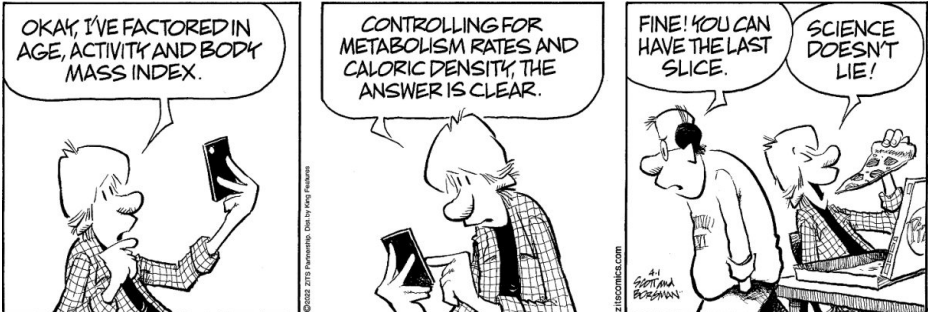
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



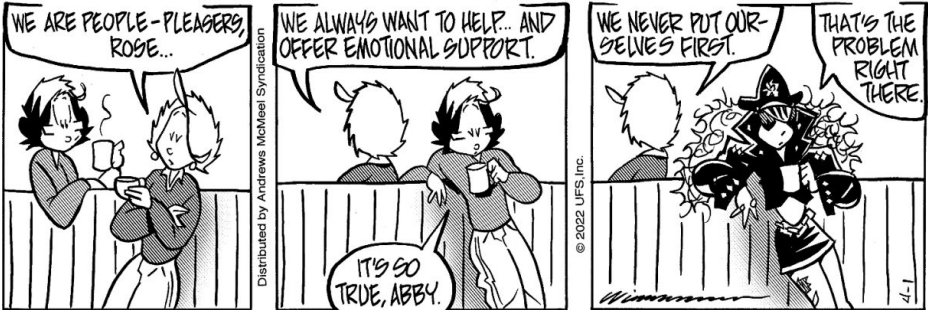
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Came out in the wash?
5 Support pieces
10 Execs' wall displays
14 Houston campus
15 Fiddlers follower, in verse
16 Soft drink opener?
17 Small step
18 Flight maintenance word
19 Worldwide: Abbr.
20 Lists for patrons
22 Toucan's pride
23 I.M. Pei alma mater
24 Like much love
26 Word with board or mentioned
28 Sudden flight
29 Actress Longoria
30 Came out suddenly
32 Romance novelist Hilderbrand
34 Natural climber
36 SUV part, briefly
37 Archi- tectural marker, or what can be found four times in this puzzle
41 WWII org. with a Pallas Athene symbol
42 __ Paulo
43 Govt. agents
46 Some surfers
50 "It depends" compo- nents
52 Give-go link
53 Ain't like it oughta be?

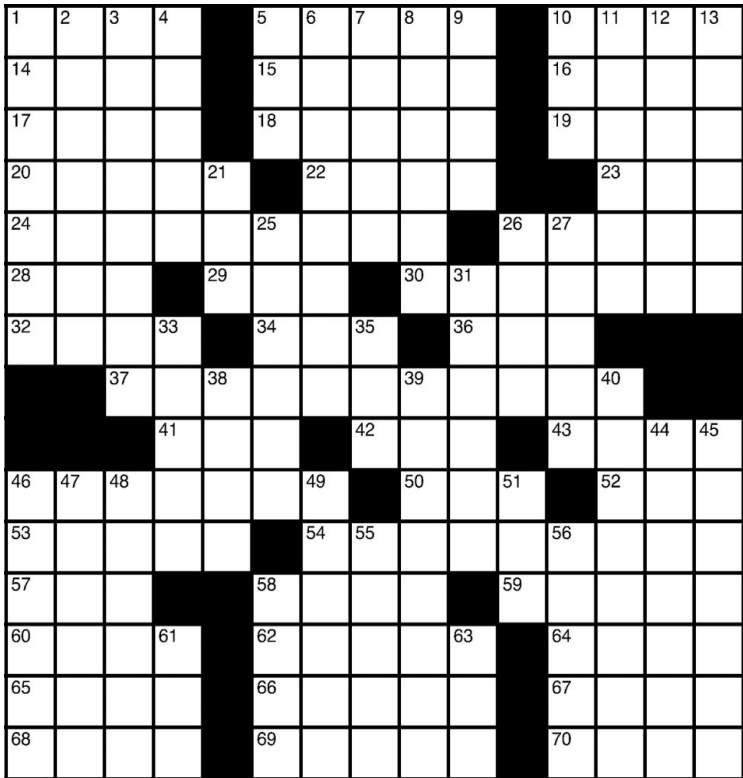
- 54 "Please remind me"
57 VII x CCC
58 Ottoman honorific
59 Hall of Famer who was a Yankee manager and a Mets coach
60 Canapé delicacy
62 Astonished
64 Keeps out
65 Yard, for one
66 67-Across sites
67 Rockies state
68 Modern navigation aids
69 Court orders
70 Ward of "FBI"

- 3 Like Paul Samuelson's field
4 Rollout
5 Criterion: Abbr.
6 Key ending words?
7 Archangel of repentance
8 Falls into ruin
9 Try to locate
10 Defunct AT&T rival
11 Witticism
12 Still at it
13 Like roads in winter, at times
21 Maritime pronoun
25 Expose
26 Road runner
27 Spinner of "Star Trek: T.N.G."

- 35 Annual arrivals: Abbr.
38 Tirade
39 Subtitle of Enya's Grammy-winning "Orinoco Flow"
40 Settle in a new country
44 Always there
45 Boris' sidekick
46 Old Native American currency beads
47 Luxury fashion name
48 More than busy
49 Seal on a ring
51 Blubber
55 Capital at 12,000 feet
56 Picture puzzle
58 Intentions
61 Summer at the Sorbonne
63 Start to snow?

Down

- 1 Berry bush
2 True to the original



By Jeffrey Wechsler Tribune Content Agency 4/1/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding Quiz

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads a trump, South following suit. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 4 2
♥ 6 3
♦ —
♣ A Q 9

EAST
♠ A 9 7
♥ A K J 5 2
♦ Q 7
♣ 6 5 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand?

WEST
♠ K 8 4
♥ —
♦ J 10 6
♣ A Q 7 6 5 4 2

EAST
♠ A Q 9
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ A Q 5
♣ 10 3

1. Win the trump lead in dummy, ruff a diamond, play a heart to dummy's king and ruff the queen of diamonds. Then lead a heart to the ace and ruff a heart.

If both opponents follow suit, you have the rest of the tricks, discarding the Q-9 of clubs on dummy's two good hearts. If instead the hearts break 4-2, you lead a trump to dummy, ruff a heart, return to dummy with a trump, discard a club on the good heart and take a club finesse to try for an overtrick.

If North shows out on the second heart, you take the ace, return a club from dummy and finesse the nine. North probably wins with the ten or jack, but you are then sure to make the slam whether he returns a club or gives you a ruff-and-discard by leading a diamond.

If South shows out when you take the heart ace, you again lead a club to the nine. After winning the trick with the ten or jack, West cannot return a heart without establishing one of dummy's hearts as a trick, and if he leads a club or diamond, he also hands you the slam.

Finally, if South plays the club ten or jack on your lead from dummy at trick six, you play the queen to create the same ending.

2. Ruff the heart and lead a low diamond to dummy's queen. If the finesse loses to South's king, your only chance for the slam is to find South with the K-X of clubs. You take a trump finesse as soon as possible and hope for the best.

If the diamond finesse at trick two wins, indicating that North has the king, lead a low trump to your ace at trick three! If the jack or king appears on this trick, you're sure to make the slam, since your only possible loser would be a trump. If both defenders play low on the ace of clubs, return to dummy with a spade and lead the ten of clubs. If South follows suit, you're home free.

Note that once the diamond finesse wins at trick two, it becomes better to play a trump to your ace than to try a trump finesse, since this guards against the singleton king in the North hand. With a slam at stake, the safety play of cashing the ace gives you the maximum chance for the contract.

Tomorrow: Card reading.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

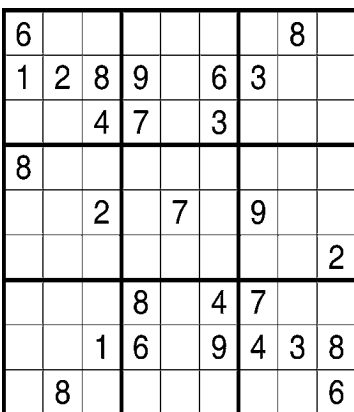
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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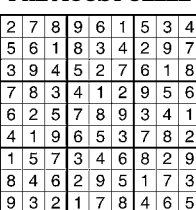
Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOAK ALIBI FEISTY APPEAR
Answer: The number 3,141 is just a — PIECE OF THE "PI"

TODAY'S SUDOKU

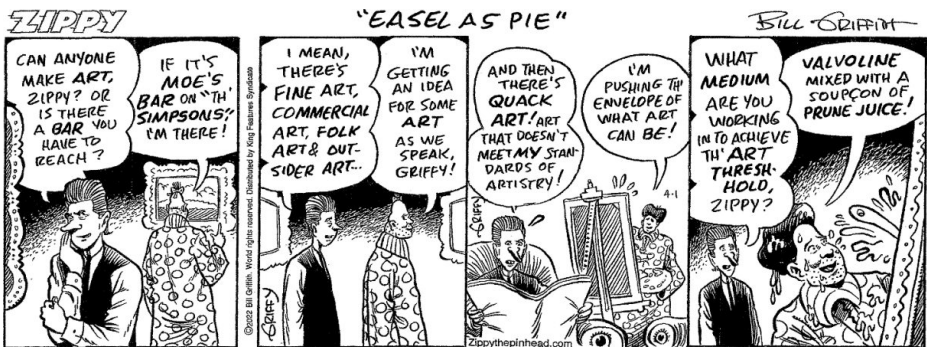


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR

Louisville (29-4) vs. South Carolina (33-2)



When: Friday, 7 p.m.
Where: Target Center, Minneapolis
TV: ESPN

How they got here: South Carolina won Greensboro Regional, Louisville won Wichita Regional



UConn (29-5) vs. Stanford (32-3)

When: Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Where: Target Center, Minneapolis
TV: ESPN

How they got here: UConn won Bridgeport Regional, Stanford won Spokane Regional

Some things never change



UConn players and coaches gather at midcourt during a practice session Thursday at the Target Center in Minneapolis. The Huskies will play Stanford tonight in a national semifinal, with an appearance in the championship game on the line. **ANDY LYONS/GETTY**

FINAL FOUR NOTEBOOK

Stanford's VanDerveer knows UConn always presents a formidable challenge

By **Lori Riley and Dom Amore**
Hartford Courant

MINNEAPOLIS — Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer loves to spend time dissecting video. Even when she's watching something else on TV, she'll always have video of an upcoming opponent or a past Stanford game on her laptop.

But she conceded Thursday that sometimes video isn't enough to capture a team's complete essence, especially a team like UConn, which has had 11 different starting lineups this season due to injuries and COVID-19 protocols.

Much to her chagrin she hasn't seen UConn live since 2017.

"I like it better when we play

Inside

A look at tonight's other semifinal: Louisville vs. South Carolina. **Page 4**

them," she said of watching an opponent live vs. tape. "Sometimes on tape, you can't really judge people as much, but when you play against someone, you can see who guards someone better, what you look like against them in person, so I like it better when we have played a team."

Her defending national champion Cardinal will be going up against the Huskies in a national

Turn to Stanford, Page 4



UConn's Paige Bueckers shoots during a practice session Thursday in Minneapolis. **ERIC GAY/AP**

Auriemma knows exactly what's he's in for when facing Stanford: 'No surprises'

By **Lori Riley**
Hartford Courant

MINNEAPOLIS — When it comes to playing Stanford, something Geno Auriemma has done 18 times in his career, the UConn coach has a what-you-see-is-what-you-get attitude.

"There's no surprises," Auriemma said. "It's not like they're going to come up with a new and different way to play every year. They play hard, they play together, they play positionless most of the time, they shoot the ball great every year. It's the same Stanford team that I remember 25, 27 years ago playing around here. It's just different people, but it's the same."

Meeting No. 19 comes on the sport's biggest stage as college

Inside

UConn forward Dorka Juhász undergoes successful surgery, to return for 2022-23 season. **Page 4**

COMING SATURDAY

Due to the late Friday tipoff in Minneapolis, coverage of UConn's game with Stanford will be included in a special 4-page e-edition section, available early Saturday at **courant.com**

women's basketball's two winningest coaches will face other in a national semifinal game.

Stanford's Tara VanDerveer has 1,157 wins and Auriemma 1,148. The

Turn to UConn, Page 4

RED SOX

Sox focus on improving their infield defense

By **Julian McWilliams**
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Red Sox third base coach Carlos Febles and infielder Christian Arroyo were zeroed in on the art of turning a double play early Thursday morning.

The pair had a student and teacher bond with Febles, who works with the infield-

ers, affirming or correcting Arroyo's moves around the second base bag. Febles fed baseballs to Arroyo from a machine cranked up to moderate speed. This allowed Arroyo to work through double plays at a steady pace. Going too fast would, perhaps, disrupt Arroyo from hammering

Turn to Sox, Page 2



The Red Sox's Christian Arroyo takes batting practice before a spring training game against the Pirates on Tuesday in Bradenton, Florida. **LYNNE SLADKY/AP**

YANKEES

Pitching depth will be tested during rough opening month

By **Kristie Ackert**
New York Daily News

CLEARWATER, Fla. — When it comes to the Yankees, the conventional wisdom is the rotation is strong on paper, but with question marks behind ace Gerrit Cole. Luis Severino has been plagued by injuries over the last three years and Jameson Taillon is coming off winter surgery to repair

a ligament in his ankle. Jordan Montgomery has yet to be a consistent starter and everyone wonders if Nestor Cortes can repeat his success from 2021.

This spring training, however, has the Bombers themselves convinced that the starters — when they are eventually up to full speed — will be a strength.

Turn to Yankees, Page 2

Did you know?

2020 saw the largest percentage jump in pedestrian deaths on a vehicle miles driven basis in American history - rising 21% year over year.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn WBB: NCAA Final Four vs. Stanford, Friday, 9:30 p.m.; NCAA Championship (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday, 8 p.m.
Celtics: Pacers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Bulls, Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Cavaliers, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Nets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Hawks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Rockets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bruins: Blue Jackets, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Blue Jackets, Monday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Islanders, Friday, 7 p.m.; Flyers, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Belleville, Friday, 7 p.m.; Syracuse, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Monday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
7 p.m.: NHRA Drag Racing NHRA Four-Wide Nationals, Qualifying. (Live) FS1
BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Blue Jays at Pirates. (Live) SPRTNET
1 p.m.: Phillies at Orioles. (Live) MLB
1 p.m.: Red Sox at Rays. (Live) NESN
3 p.m.: Louisville at Pittsburgh. (Live) ACC
4 p.m.: Reds at Angels. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Mississippi State at Arkansas. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Tennessee at Vanderbilt. (Live) ESPN2
BASKETBALL
10:30 a.m.: GEICO Nationals, Semifinals: Montverde (FL) at DME Academy (FL). (Live) ESPN
12:30 p.m.: GEICO Nationals, Semifinals: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN
2 p.m.: 3x3U National Championship: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN
2:30 p.m.: GEICO Nationals, First Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
4:30 p.m.: Reese's All-Star Game. (Live) CBSSN
4:30 p.m.: GEICO Nationals, Second Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal: Louisville vs South Carolina. (Live) ESPN, ESPN
7:30 p.m.: Pacers at Celtics. (Live), NBCSB
8 p.m.: Suns at Grizzlies. (Live) NBA
9:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Semifinal: UConn vs Stanford. (Live) ESPN, ESPN
10:30 p.m.: Pelicans at Lakers. (Live) NBA
FOOTBALL
7 p.m.: Syracuse Orange-Blue Game. (Live) ACC
GOLF
12 p.m.: The Chevron Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
4 p.m.: Valero Texas Open, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
10 p.m.: Rapiscan Systems Classic, First Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Blackhawks at Lightning. (Live) SPRTNET
7 p.m.: Islanders at Rangers. (Live), MSG
10 p.m.: Golden Knights at Kraken. (Live) SPRTNET
LACROSSE
5 p.m.: Women's College: Penn State at Ohio State. (Live) ESPN
TENNIS
1 p.m.: ATP/WTN Tennis Miami Open, ATP Semifinal 1, WTA Doubles Semifinal 1. (Live) TENNIS
7 p.m.: ATP/WTN Tennis Miami Open, ATP Semifinal 2, WTA Doubles Semifinal 2. (Live) TENNIS

BRUINS

Recently retired Rask bids Boston fans adieu

By Steve Conroy
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Tuukka Rask looks and sounds like a man who is both comfortable in his retirement and secure in the decision to end his career when he did.

Rask spoke publicly for the first time on Thursday evening at the Garden before doing the ceremonial puck drop before the Bruins-Devils game, most

METS NOTES

Canó to try first base again as club experiments in spring

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Robin-son Canó is ready to take another swing at first base.

A second baseman throughout his career, Canó is scheduled to play first in spring training Thursday as the New York Mets experiment with options that could keep his bat in the lineup on occasion.

The 39-year-old Canó has played 2,158 games at second base during his 16-year major league career. His only experience at first was 14 games

with the Seattle Mariners in 2018.

“They’re going to do some things with him tomorrow morning so it’s not cold turkey,” Mets manager Buck Showalter said Wednesday night.

Jeff McNeil is penciled in as New York’s primary second baseman this season. Pete Alonso and Dominic Smith top the depth chart at first, while Canó figures to fit often as the designated hitter — which gets adopted in the National League this year.

But the Mets are looking for

defensive insurance and other ways to get at-bats for Canó, a .303 career hitter with 334 home runs and 2,624 hits.

He sat out the entire 2021 season while serving his second suspension for performance-enhancing drugs.

“He’s still going to play some second base, but he’s so excited to be back with the team and being in a position to contribute,” Showalter said.

The new Mets manager said putting guys in different positions is important this time of year.

Utility infielder Luis Guillorme played third base in Tuesday night’s 10-0 win over the Miami Marlins. Eduardo Escobar, an All-Star third baseman with Arizona last year, was at second base Wednesday night against Houston.

“Just because you’re an infielder doesn’t mean you’re going to be comfortable at any (position),” Showalter said. “We’re trying to get them a different angle, a different look, before we get out of here.”

New York opens the season at Washington on April 7.

Yankees

from Page 1

“I like where we’re at,” Taillon said. “I’ve been watching Gerrit a lot this spring. He looks strong. Hopefully, Sevy feels good [Saturday] and has a good one. But I’ve been impressed by how strong he looks. Monty had a great year last year. Hopefully, he builds off that and then Nestor really impressed me this spring.”

“I think it was just noise around baseball and stuff with Nestor, like can he repeat what he did [in 2021]? And then he comes in this year and he looks even better than he did last year,” Taillon continued. “So I am really excited about that group. I think we did some decent things last year and we can definitely build on this year.”

Getting through the first month will tell a lot about the Yankees’ pitching depth. Just the logistics of handling the rotation this year will be complicated thanks to the shortened spring training after an extended owners’ lockout.

“Look, the first month is going to be a challenge. Especially, it’s 24 [games] out of 26 [days] after that off day and we’re still building guys up,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Fortunately we have a couple extra roster spots. So [how we get through] kind of depends on the makeup of those final one or two pitchers. How many do we go with? What is the makeup ... are they a long guy or two that we’re able to go with or is it shorter? So, it’s going to be a little bit of a puzzle.”

“I think that first month will be a little bit unique and how we have to deploy, but you know, hopefully, they’re all in a good position to where they can keep progressing. And by



Yankees starting pitcher Jameson Taillon throws during the first inning of a spring training game against the Phillies on Monday in Tampa, Florida. LYNNE SLADKY/AP

that second time through, they’re getting closer to that normal range.”

A huge part of managing through that first month will be guys like Michael King, who gave up two runs on five hits in 2.1 innings Thursday.

“He’s gonna be really valuable. As you start to kind of, in your mind, count up innings, especially after you get through that Opening Day and you got nine [games] in a row and 15 out of 16 [days]. You’re gonna have to get five and six and seven innings out of most of your pitching staff and that’s from the first guy out of the pen to the last guy in the pen, so you got to be a little creative,” Boone said.

“Michael can be one of those guys that could serve certainly in some scenarios where it’s that one inning, or one-plus, two innings, but I also feel like we’ll hopefully have him built up enough to where there may be a game that he pops in, in almost a piggyback type scenario.”

Thursday, Taillon went 3.2 innings allowing three runs on four hits. He walked one

and struck out four. He threw 48 pitches and finished off with 14 in the bullpen. The right-hander will have one more start this spring before making his regular-season debut on Monday, April 11 at Yankee Stadium against the Blue Jays.

Taillon being ahead of schedule after surgery to repair a torn ligament in his ankle this offseason helps answer a lot of questions. He’s rehabbed from the unusual baseball injury quicker than expected and feels ready to push himself.

“Last year, I felt like I was really trying to just find my identity as a pitcher again and try to be healthy and take the ball and figure out what my routine was gonna look like,” Taillon said of coming into spring 2021 after his second Tommy John surgery. “This year, like I’m still rehabbing this but I feel really healthy and I feel really strong and I feel like my velocity is better this year than it was last year and I feel like I have a better idea of what I want to do out there.”

YANKEES NOTES

Severino still on track for next start

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Luis Severino was on the field Thursday playing catch like he usually would be on the day after a bullpen session. That is a good sign for the right-hander, who had his second spring training start pushed back because of general arm soreness.

“He’s really encouraged by what he was coming in with today and just going out to throw and normal catch play and in line for Saturday so kind of waiting for this morning,” Aaron Boone said. “It’s what we hope for at this point.”

Severino is scheduled to start Saturday against the Braves for his final outing of spring training.

Severino has been through the gamut with injuries over the past three years, beginning with shoulder inflammation that transformed into a lat tear. He had Tommy John surgery in March 2020 and a rehab that was stalled by a groin injury and shoulder issue.

Catching up: Ben Rortvedt has progressed to hitting tossed baseballs Wednesday, meaning he is moving toward full swing and eventually playing in games. The catcher, who came to the Yankees with a strained right oblique in a trade earlier this spring, however, seems likely to begin the regular season on the injured list.

The Yankees will have to make some hard decisions to replace him because they do

not have another catcher on their 40-man roster, which is full. They have catchers Rob Brantly, Max McDowell and David Freitas, who started against the Phillies Thursday, in camp.

“Some of that depends on where we determine Ben is. Is he going to need a week or two? ... Obviously you have to create a roster spot,” the Yankee manager said. “So, there’ll be a lot of things that kind of factor in.”

Brantly was with the Yankees last season. The 32-year-old veteran has played 133 games in the big leagues with the Marlins, White Sox, Phillies, Giants and Yankees. McDowell — a Brewers’ 13th-round pick in 2015 — played 45 games in Triple-A with the Yankees in 2021 and is earning the reputation of being an excellent defensive catcher. Freitas, who started Thursday, has played 59 games in the big leagues with the Braves, Mariners and Brewers.

Relief: In his first game back from a pinched nerve in his neck, lefty reliever Joely Rodriguez looked back to normal Thursday.

“I was anxious to see and I thought he’s pretty sharp too. The lefty he got out to finish there was good,” Boone said of Joely. “I don’t think the velocity is all the way back there but it seemed like it was 92-93 [mph], which was probably in line. I thought it was a really good slider to finish off his outing for the strikeout. I thought he threw the ball well through a couple of good change ups in there also.”

“So it’s good to see him be fairly sharp out there.”

RED SOX NOTES

Shaw, Refsnyder vying for role as backup first baseman

By Julian McWilliams
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Bobby Dalbec will be the Red Sox’ starting first baseman when they open the season next week against the Yankees in New York. But who will back up Dalbec at the position?

Travis Shaw and Rob Refsnyder are in camp as non-roster invitees. Shaw could fill the role, but his overall impact is questionable, if you consider his offensive performance this spring and his below-average defense. Yet manager Alex Cora said he isn’t concerned, adding that Shaw, who bats lefthanded, has faced a good number of lefties this spring.

“He’s faced like 12 lefties,” Cora said Thursday morning. “If Travis is here, he’s not going to face too many lefties. We know the player. We know the at-bats. We know what he can do in that clubhouse, too.”

Shaw entered Thursday afternoon’s exhibition game against the Twins 0 for 17 with seven strikeouts. However, he broke that hitless streak, going 2 for 2 with a double and an RBI in a 4-3 win.

Refsnyder, a utility player, has some experience at first, playing 36 games there, including 25 with the Yankees in 2016. Refsnyder would give the Red Sox more athleticism but bats righthanded, unlike Shaw.

The Sox will carry 15 pitchers and 13 position players with rosters expanded to 28 at the start of the season. Backup catcher Kevin Plawecki and utility infielder Christian Arroyo put the Sox at 11 position players, leaving two spots vacant. Along with Refsnyder and Shaw, Cora said outfielder Franchy Cordero and utility infielders Jona-

than Araúz and Yolmer Sánchez, are in the mix.

Back in the swing: Christian Vázquez hit just six homers last season, finishing with a .258 batting average and .658 OPS.

“When you lose the feeling [at the plate], it’s hard to get it back,” Vázquez said of 2021. “I think when you get it back like how I’m feeling now, you feel like you’re rolling. When you can have the same swing every time, it’s fun.”

Vázquez’s 2021 numbers were drastically different from his breakout season in 2019. He tapped into more power that year, hitting .276 with 23 homers and a .798 OPS, all of which were career highs.

Yet at the conclusion of that season, Cora believed Vázquez was selling out too much for power, resulting in some popups and lazy fly balls. Now, Cora wants him to find that balance, knowing when to apply his power swing and when to take the single hit the other way.

Robles arrives: Reliever Hansel Robles (visa issues) arrived at camp and will throw a bullpen session on Friday. It’s to be determined when Robles will pitch in a game. Cora wouldn’t rule out Robles making the Opening Day roster but said the team has to be mindful to where Robles is in his progression ... Chris Sale (rib cage fracture) had an scheduled for Thursday evening to see where he is in his recovery ... Michael Wacha pitched four innings Thursday against the Twins, allowing three runs, including a two-run homer in the fourth ... Rich Hill will pitch against the Rays at Port Charlotte Friday. Garrett Whitlock will pitch in a simulated game at Fenway South.

Sox

from Page 1

down the mechanics.

In this drill, Febles wanted Arroyo to work behind the bag, not making his move toward second until he was certain where the machine would deliver the ball.

“The main thing is you have to see the flight of the baseball and use your legs,” an animated Febles explained. “To me, everything you do on the field, you have to use your legs. You cannot start your legs before seeing the baseball.”

With each repetition, it appeared Arroyo got the hang of it, staying behind the bag before pouncing. Febles clapped his hands emphatically once the round was over before reflecting with Arroyo on the session and what the infielder took from it. At that point, Febles walked back to the machine and started feeding baseballs through it again.

It’s been the routine for Red Sox infielders this spring. Each morning, just before batting practice and other infield work on the back fields at Fenway South, infielders plant themselves on a sliver of turf outside the clubhouse.

It’s divided into two sections. On one side, Febles delivers flies to the infielders. On the other, it’s all about grounders. The players start on their knees.

Glove-side grounders; grounders in front of the player; backhand grounders; glove-side grounders with in-between hops; grounders in front of the player with in-between hops; backhand grounders with in-between hops. The infielders then stand up and repeat the movements in their usual ready positions, but at a slow pace, utilizing miniature baseballs, and sometimes a pancake glove. Both require intense focus and attention to detail. If you don’t look the ball in, you’re likely to boot it.

“I like them a lot,” Arroyo said of the drills. “Because it allows me to focus on catching the ball in my pocket and getting it in a sweet spot and also with the transfer for the smaller ball. We’ll sometimes do double-play feeds with them. Then when you grab the regular ball it feels like a beach ball.”

Much of the goal, Febles said, is to isolate the hands from the rest of the body.

“Then when we get on the field, that’s when we work on angles and first-step quickness,” Febles said. “Here, it’s all about hand work.”

Entering the 2021 season, manager Alex Cora said he wanted the Red Sox to make more of a commitment to defense. Yet the Sox still struggled, committing the second-most errors in baseball (108) behind the Marlins (122).

SCOREBOARD

NBA

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| ATLANTIC | W | L | PCT | GB |
| Philadelphia | 46 | 29 | .613 | — |
| Boston | 47 | 30 | .610 | — |
| Toronto | 44 | 32 | .579 | 2 ½ |
| Brooklyn | 40 | 36 | .526 | 6 ½ |
| New York | 34 | 43 | .442 | 13 |

| SOUTHEAST | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|------|
| W | L | PCT | GB | |
| y-Miami | 49 | 28 | .636 | — |
| Charlotte | 40 | 37 | .519 | 9 |
| Atlanta | 39 | 37 | .513 | 9 ½ |
| Washington | 33 | 43 | .434 | 15 ½ |
| Orlando | 20 | 57 | .260 | 29 |

| CENTRAL | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|------|------|
| W | L | PCT | GB | |
| Milwaukee | 47 | 28 | .627 | — |
| Chicago | 44 | 32 | .579 | 3 ½ |
| Cleveland | 42 | 34 | .553 | 5 ½ |
| Indiana | 25 | 52 | .325 | 23 |
| Detroit | 20 | 56 | .263 | 27 ½ |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|------|
| SOUTHWEST | W | L | PCT | GB |
| y-Memphis | 54 | 23 | .701 | — |
| x-Dallas | 48 | 29 | .623 | 6 |
| New Orleans | 33 | 43 | .434 | 20 ½ |
| San Antonio | 31 | 45 | .408 | 22 ½ |
| Houston | 20 | 57 | .260 | 34 |

| NORTHWEST | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|------|
| W | L | PCT | GB | |
| Denver | 46 | 31 | .597 | — |
| Utah | 45 | 31 | .592 | ½ |
| Minnesota | 43 | 34 | .558 | 3 |
| Portland | 27 | 49 | .355 | 18 ½ |
| Oklahoma City | 22 | 54 | .289 | 23 ½ |

| PACIFIC | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|------|
| W | L | PCT | GB | |
| z-Phoenix | 62 | 14 | .816 | — |
| Golden State | 48 | 29 | .623 | 14 ½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 37 | 39 | .487 | 25 |
| L.A. Lakers | 31 | 44 | .413 | 30 ½ |
| Sacramento | 28 | 49 | .364 | 34 ½ |

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia at Detroit, late
Cleveland at Atlanta, late
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, late
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, late
L.A. Lakers at Utah, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Washington, 7p.m.
Toronto at Orlando, 7p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Detroit at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Phoenix at Memphis, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 8p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 9p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 120, Cleveland 112
Washington 127, Orlando 110
Denver 125, Indiana 118
Toronto 125, Minnesota 102
Charlotte 125, New York 114
Miami 106, Boston 98
Atlanta 136, Oklahoma City 118
Sacramento 121, Houston 118
Memphis 112, San Antonio 111
New Orleans 117, Portland 107
Phoenix 107, Golden State 103

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| ATLANTIC | GP | W | L | OT | PTS | GF | GA |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Florida | 66 | 45 | 15 | 6 | 96 | 271 | 195 |
| Tampa Bay | 66 | 42 | 18 | 6 | 90 | 219 | 185 |
| Toronto | 66 | 42 | 19 | 5 | 89 | 245 | 201 |
| Boston | 66 | 41 | 20 | 5 | 87 | 204 | 180 |
| Detroit | 67 | 26 | 32 | 9 | 61 | 193 | 258 |
| Buffalo | 68 | 24 | 33 | 11 | 59 | 186 | 240 |
| Ottawa | 66 | 23 | 37 | 6 | 52 | 171 | 217 |
| Montreal | 67 | 18 | 38 | 11 | 47 | 173 | 254 |
| METRO. | GP | W | L | OT | PTS | GF | GA |
| Carolina | 67 | 44 | 15 | 8 | 96 | 225 | 161 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 68 | 44 | 19 | 5 | 93 | 211 | 178 |
| Pittsburgh | 68 | 40 | 18 | 90 | 227 | 182 | |
| Washington | 68 | 37 | 21 | 10 | 84 | 225 | 197 |
| Columbus | 67 | 32 | 30 | 5 | 69 | 219 | 250 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 65 | 29 | 27 | 9 | 67 | 178 | 181 |
| New Jersey | 66 | 24 | 37 | 5 | 53 | 203 | 239 |
| Philadelphia | 67 | 21 | 35 | 11 | 53 | 172 | 237 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| CENTRAL | GP | W | L | OT | PTS | GF | GA |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Colorado | 67 | 47 | 14 | 6 | 100 | 255 | 185 |
| Minnesota | 65 | 41 | 20 | 4 | 86 | 241 | 193 |
| St. Louis | 66 | 37 | 20 | 9 | 83 | 234 | 191 |
| Nashville | 67 | 39 | 24 | 4 | 82 | 221 | 195 |
| Dallas | 65 | 37 | 25 | 3 | 77 | 192 | 194 |
| Winnipeg | 68 | 33 | 25 | 10 | 76 | 212 | 209 |
| Chicago | 67 | 24 | 33 | 10 | 58 | 184 | 235 |
| Arizona | 67 | 21 | 41 | 5 | 47 | 173 | 242 |
| PACIFIC | GP | W | L | OT | PTS | GF | GA |
| Calgary | 66 | 40 | 18 | 8 | 88 | 232 | 162 |
| Los Angeles | 69 | 36 | 23 | 10 | 82 | 199 | 198 |
| Edmonton | 68 | 38 | 25 | 5 | 81 | 237 | 219 |
| Vegas | 69 | 37 | 28 | 4 | 78 | 219 | 206 |
| Vancouver | 69 | 32 | 28 | 9 | 73 | 196 | 199 |
| San Jose | 66 | 29 | 29 | 8 | 66 | 175 | 209 |
| Anaheim | 68 | 27 | 30 | 11 | 65 | 191 | 221 |
| Seattle | 67 | 21 | 40 | 6 | 48 | 176 | 236 |

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago at Florida, late
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, late
Montreal at Carolina, late
New Jersey at Boston, late
Winnipeg at Toronto, late
Pittsburgh at Minnesota, late
Los Angeles at Calgary, late
San Jose at Colorado, late
Dallas at Anaheim, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Nashville at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Vegas at Seattle, 10p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Florida at New Jersey, 12:30p.m.
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 3p.m.
Columbus at Boston, 7p.m.
Los Angeles at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Carolina, 7p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
St. Louis at Calgary, 10p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Winnipeg 3, Buffalo 2(SO)
N.Y. Rangers 5, Detroit 4(OT)
Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 3(SO)
Arizona 5, San Jose 2
St. Louis 4, Vancouver 3
Vegas 3, Seattle 0

ODDS

| COLLEGE BASKETBALL | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------|--|
| FAVORITE | LINE | UNDERDOG | |
| Meno's State | 3 | at Coastal Carolina | |
| Fresno's NCAA TOURNAMENT | | | |
| Kansas | 4 ½ | Villanova | |
| Duke | 4 | North Carolina | |
| WOMEN | | | |
| South Carolina | 8 ½ | FRIDAY | |
| Stanford | 1 ½ | UConn | |
| Middle Tenn. | 8 | Seton Hall | |
| S. Dakota St. | 5 ½ | UCLA | |

| NBA FAVORITE | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| LINE | UNDERDOG | FRIDAY | |
| Dallas | 8 ½ (220½) | at Wash. | |
| Toronto | 9 ½ (off) | at Orlando | |
| at Boston | 14 ½ (221½) | Indiana | |
| at Milwaukee | off (off) | L.A. Clippers | |
| Sacramento | 2 (232) | at Houston | |
| Detroit | 4 (off) | at Okla. City | |
| Phoenix | 3 (230) | at Memphis | |
| at San Antonio | 14 ½ (231½) | Portland | |
| at Denver | 4 (235) | Minnesota | |
| at L.A. Lakers | off (off) | New Orleans | |

NHL FAVORITE
-142 NY Islanders
-255 Chicago
+146 at Tampa Bay
+145 at Buffalo
+146 at Detroit
-115 Ottawa
-114 St. Louis
-105 Vegas
-164 at Seattle
+136 Anaheim
-130 at Arizona
For the latest odds, go to
FanDuel Sportsbook.
https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

TENNIS

MIAMI OPEN
at Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla., hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#8 Hubert Hurkacz d.
#1 Daniil Medvedev, 7-6(7), 6-3.
#14 Carlos Alcaraz vs.
Miomir Kecmanovic, late
WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
Naomi Osaka vs.
#22 Belinda Bencic, late
#2 Iga Swiatek vs.
#16 Jessica Pegula, late

ANDALUCIA OPEN
At Club de Tennis Puente Romano, Marbella, Spain, outdoors-hard
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Philipp Kohlschreiber d.
Carlos Taberner, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Pedro Cachin d. Manuel Guinard, 6-4, 6-0.
Alex Molcan d. Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4).
Jaume Munar d. Nicolas Alvarez Varona, 6-4, 6-2.
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
Oceane Dodin d. Varvara Gracheva, 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.
Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova d.
Ana Bogdan, 7-6(1), 6-0.
Mayar Sherif d. Elisabetta Cocciaretto, 6-2, 6-4.
Rebekka Masarova d. Clara Burel, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

| EASTERN | | W | L | T | PT | GF | GA |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 2 | |
| Columbus | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 5 | |
| Chicago | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | |
| Orlando City | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | |
| N.Y. Red Bulls | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | |
| Atlanta | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | |
| D.C. United | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | |
| Charlotte FC | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 7 | |
| Cincinnati | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 10 | |
| New York City FC | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| New England | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | |
| Toronto FC | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | |
| CF Montreal | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 11 | |
| Inter Miami CF | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | |
| WESTERN | W | L | T | PT | GF | GA | |
| Los Angeles FC | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 2 | |
| Real Salt Lake | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 4 | |
| Minnesota United | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 | |
| Austin FC | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 3 | |
| FC Dallas | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3 | |
| Colorado | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 4 | |
| L.A. Galaxy | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 4 | |
| Kansas City | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 8 | |
| Portland | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 8 | |
| Houston | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | |
| Seattle | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | |
| Nashville | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | |
| San Jose | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | |
| Vancouver | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | |

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
FC Dallas at Chicago, 3:30p.m.
CF Montreal at Cincinnati, 4p.m.
New York City FC at Toronto FC, 4p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 6p.m.
Atlanta at D.C. United, 7:30p.m.
New York at New England, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Austin FC at San Jose, 7:30p.m.
Houston at Miami, 8p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Sporting KC at Vancouver, 8p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCH
LA Galaxy at Portland, 4:30p.m.

NWSL CHALLENGE CUP
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Louisville at Kansas City, 3p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8p.m.
Angel City FC at San Diego FC, 4p.m.
OL Reign at Portland, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
North Carolina at Gotham FC, 3p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 4p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 2, North Carolina 2
Gotham FC 1, Orlando 0
Louisville 0, Chicago 0
Kansas City 3, Houston 0
Portland 3, Angel City FC 0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Liverpool vs. Watford, 7:30a.m.
Brighton vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Burnley vs. Man City, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Leeds vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Man United vs. Leicester, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Everton, 9a.m.
Tottenham vs. Newcastle, 11:30a.m.

MONDAY'S MATCH
Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

U.S. MEN'S CHALLENGE CUP
q-March 30: Costa Rica 2, U.S. 0
q-World Cup qualifying

U.S. WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP
April 9: vs. Uzbekistan, at Lower.com Field, Columbus, Ohio, 5:30 p.m.
April 12: vs. Uzbekistan, at Subaru Park, Chester, Pa., 6 p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
QUARTERFINAL KNOCKOUT PHASE
First, second leg: April 5-13
Atletico Madrid vs. Man City
Liverpool vs. Benfica
First, second leg: April 6-12
Bayern Munich vs. Villarreal
Real Madrid vs. Chelsea

22ND WORLD CUP DRAW
The pots for Friday's World Cup draw:
POT 1
Qatar
Brazil
Belgium
France
Argentina
England
Spain
Portugal
POT 2
Netherlands
Denmark
Germany
Mexico
Switzerland
U.S.
Uruguay
Caoatya
POT 3
Senegal
Iran
Japan
Morocco
Serbia
Poland
South Korea
Tunisia
POT 4
Cameroon
Ecuador
Ghana
Peru
Costa Rica
Canada
Saudi Arabia
UEFA Playoff Winner
3rd Place Playoff winner
New Zealand
Playoff winner

| FIFA WORLD RANKINGS | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| RK | MEN | PTS | PV +/- |
| 1 | Brazil | 1832.69 | 1823.42 9.27 |
| 2 | Brazil | 1827 | 1828.45 -1.45 |
| 3 | France | 1789.85 | 1786.15 3.70 |
| 4 | Argentina | 1765.13 | 1766.99 -1.86 |
| 5 | England | 1761.71 | 1755.52 6.19 |
| 6 | Italy | 1723.31 | 1740.77 -17.46 |
| 7 | Spain | 1709.19 | 1704.75 4.44 |
| 8 | Portugal | 1674.78 | 1660.25 14.53 |
| 9 | Mexico | 1658.82 | 1647.9 10.92 |
| 10 | Netherlands | 1658.66 | 1653.73 4.93 |
| 11 | Denmark | 1653.6 | 1654.54 -0.94 |
| 12 | Germany | 1650.53 | 1648.33 2.20 |
| 13 | Uruguay | 1635.73 | 1614.05 21.68 |
| 14 | Switzerland | 1635.32 | 1642.83 -7.51 |
| 15 | U.S. | 1633.72 | 1643.34 -9.62 |
| 16 | Croatia | 1621.11 | 1620.74 0.37 |
| 17 | Colombia | 1600.52 | 1585.89 14.63 |
| 18 | Wales | 1588.08 | 1578.01 10.07 |
| 19 | Sweden | 1584.77 | 1588.26 -3.49 |
| 20 | Senegal | 1584.16 | 1587.78 -3.62 |
| 21 | Iran | 1564.49 | 1572.89 -8.40 |
| 22 | Peru | 1562.32 | 1563.45 -1.13 |
| 23 | Japan | 1553.44 | 1549.82 3.62 |
| 24 | Morocco | 1551.88 | 1547.42 4.46 |
| 25 | Serbia | 1547.53 | 1547.38 0.15 |
| RK WOMEN | PTS | PV +/- | |
| 1 | U.S. | 2104.06 | 2109.09 -5.03 |
| 2 | Sweden | 2081.54 | 2079.13 2.41 |
| 3 | France | 2046.48 | 2034.41 12.07 |
| 4 | Germany | 2040.98 | 2070.26 -29.28 |
| 5 | Netherlands | 2013.93 | 2021.99 -8.06 |
| 6 | Canada | 2010.07 | 2007.21 2.86 |
| 7 | Spain | 1980.28 | 1959.16 21.12 |
| 8 | England | 1977.78 | 1974.29 3.49 |
| 9 | Brazil | 1969.34 | 1976.86 -7.52 |
| 10 | N. Korea | 1940 | 1940 0.00 |
| 11 | Norway | 1918.6 | 1930.44 -11.84 |
| 12 | Australia | 1911.1 | 1933.8 -22.70 |
| 13 | Italy | 1910.67 | 1911 -0.33 |
| 14 | Japan | 1886.79 | 1872.97 13.82 |
| 15 | Denmark | 1871.96 | 1880.31 -8.35 |

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT
Madison Square Garden, New York City
THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Xavier vs. Texas A&M., late

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC
FRIDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP<

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: NCAA Tournament national semifinal at Minneapolis, vs. Stanford, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

UConn Women's Basketball

Juhász has successful surgery, to return next season

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball forward Dorka Juhász underwent successful surgery on Wednesday afternoon at UConn Health to repair the fracture in her left wrist, the university announced on Thursday.

Recovery time is estimated at four months.

Juhász, a graduate transfer from Ohio State, fractured and dislocated the wrist in a fall to the floor during the Huskies' 91-87 double-overtime victory over NC State on Monday night in the Bridgeport Regional final. She did not come to the Women's Final Four in Minneapolis with the team on Tuesday but could travel and join the team on Friday in time to be on the bench for the national semifinal game vs. Stanford.

"We had a chance to speak with Dorka [after the surgery], and I spoke with her again this morning," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "She's in that state where everything is fine, everything is happy and making nothing but happy talk. But once it wears off this afternoon, it's going to be a different Dorka."

"We're going to try to get her out here tomorrow so she can be a part of this."

Juhász expressed her frustration in a Twitter post on Thursday.

"My heart feels loved and heartbroken at the same time. It's aching because my season has come to an end, and I won't be able to compete for the national championship with my sisters this weekend," she said in the post. "I feel loved because this team has accepted me and loved me since the day I arrived in Connecticut last May. I never imagined that I could become a part of something so special in such a short period of time."

Juhász will return to UConn for the 2022-23 season and use her final year of collegiate eligibility.

"I always suspected that she was coming back," Auriemma said. "I think one big reason that she came to UConn was to try to experience something like this, and it was taken away from her this year, so I think she's coming to hopefully be in the same situation but actually playing instead of watching."

A native of Pecs, Hungary, Juhász averaged 7.5 points and 5.8 rebounds this season.

"I thought that the four minutes she played [vs. NC State] were some of the best four minutes that she's played all year long, so it's a shame," Auriemma said. "We can try to build on that, and obviously with [Olivia Nelson-Ododa] graduating and having a big hole there to fill, I think it's huge for us, Dorka coming back."

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UConn guard Evina Westbrook (22) checks on forward Dorka Juhasz on Monday in Bridgeport. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**

UConn

from Page 1

two will square off in the second game (9:30 p.m. ET) at the Target Center. Louisville meets South Carolina in the opener at 7 p.m.

The Huskies and Cardinal bring similar styles of play to the court. One significant difference, though, is that Stanford (32-3) is the defending national champion and returns much of its lineup from last year. UConn (29-5) is a younger team that has weathered multiple injuries to key players to return to its 14th straight Final Four but hasn't won a national title since 2016.

"Anytime you play a team that's used to winning — and they are, and they won a national championship last year, and they have everybody back — you have a built-in advantage there because your kids are attempting to do something that they've already done," Auriemma said.

"They're disciplined, and not every team is. They play exceptionally hard, and not every team does. They shoot the ball better than most teams in the country. When you put all those things together, you know you have a real difficult task ahead. I like to think they have a difficult task ahead, as well."

The two teams haven't played since November 2017 when UConn won 78-60 in Columbus, Ohio. UConn also won the last time the teams played each other in the national semifinals in Nashville in 2014.

Stanford, which has won 24 straight, has four starters 6 feet or taller, including 6-foot-4 sophomore center Cameron Brink, who leads the team in scoring (13.4) and rebounding (8.1). The Cardinal's height could pose a problem for UConn.

"They're big at every position," said UConn sophomore Paige Bueckers, who is playing in the NCAA Tournament in her home state for the first time. "They're all versatile, they can play inside and outside, so we're going to have to guard all five positions extremely well. They're an extremely tough team to guard and they're extremely long on defense as well. It poses a different challenge than anything we've faced this season."

Meanwhile, UConn's depth in the post took a hit Monday night in the Huskies' 91-87 double overtime win over NC State in the Bridgeport Regional final when reserve forward Dorka Juhász broke her left wrist. That leaves starters Aaliyah Edwards and Olivia Nelson-Ododa to handle the bulk of the post duties Friday. Evina Westbrook played 15 minutes off the bench Monday and could be a key contributor Friday.

Both the 6-3 Edwards and 6-5 Nelson-Ododa need to be mindful of foul trouble. Edwards fouled out in the second round against UCF, which was a very physical game, and in the overtime win over NC State Monday. Nelson-Ododa also fouled out against UCF and had four fouls in the regional final.

"We're going to have to focus on being aggressive, but playing smart, so we don't get into foul trouble," Edwards said. "We want to beat them off the dribble. I know they have length in the post, but I feel like we're pretty athletic and versatile as well, so we have to just use that to our advantage."

"Our mindset is to just bring that same intensity we always do, even with Dorka out of that rotation and her spark off the bench. She's telling us to lock in, we've got this, she'll be there supporting us. She believes in us. We're really playing for her. And as big as we've just got to stay aggressive but also be smart at the same



UConn players stretch during a practice session Thursday in Minneapolis. **ERIC GAY/AP**

time."

Juhász, who had surgery Wednesday, is expected to fly to Minneapolis Friday to be with the team.

Against Indiana in the regional semifinals, Edwards and Nelson-Ododa dominated on the boards, collecting 24 of UConn's 39 rebounds. Then Nelson-Ododa had seven and Edwards six against NC State in a game which was dominated by UConn's guards. Williams had 21 points, Bueckers, the regional MVP, 27 and Fudd 19.

"The other night we had great performances from Christyn, Azzi, and Paige," Auriemma said. "The game before that, Aaliyah and Olivia were amazing against Indiana. So if we could put those two things together [Friday] night, we'll be in good shape."

UConn has lost the national semifinal the last four times they've played in the game — in 2017 (to Mississippi State), 2018 (to Notre Dame in overtime), 2019 (to Notre Dame again), and 2021 (to Arizona).

"We came here on a mission and we're not going to stop until we get what we want," Bueckers said. "We're laser focused on what we're here for."

The basics

NCAA Semifinals
Site: Target Center, Minneapolis.
Time: 9:30 p.m. ET
Series: UConn, 11-7
Last meeting: UConn 78-53, Nov. 12, 2017, at Columbus, Ohio.
TV: ESPN (Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca Lobo, Andraya Carter, Holly Rowe)
Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

Stanford (32-3) probable starters, sixth player

Lexie Hull G, 6-1, Sr.; Haley Jones G, 6-1, Jr.; Cameron Brink F, 6-4, So.; Anna Wilson G, 5-9, GS; Lacie Hull G, 6-1, Sr.; Francesca Belibi F, 6-1, Jr.

UConn (29-5) probable starters, sixth player

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.; Paige Bueckers, G, 5-11, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: Paige Bueckers' true return, with her 27-point performance vs. NC State, gave the Huskies the offensive team they thought they would have. Bueckers, Fudd and Williams are a three-pronged threat, from the perimeter and in attacking the rim. If they are all on their game, UConn is hard to stop.
UConn's defense: After smothering Big East and early NCAA competition, the Huskies' defense has been a little more vulnerable against Indiana and NC State, but still solid. Losing Juhász to her wrist injury will hurt UConn's rebounding and force the other frontcourt players to be more careful in avoiding fouls.

Stanford's offense: Brink (13.4), Jones (12.9) and Lexie Hull (12.7) are the leading scorers. The Cardinal average 15.3 assists, and 13.3 offensive rebounds per game, shooting 45.2 percent from the field, 35.3 on 3s.

Stanford's defense: Brink is an elite shot-blocker, with 89 for the season. Stanford's height will make things difficult for UConn's penetrating guards. The Cardinal allow 56.6 points per game and hold opponents to 34.1 percent from the floor. But Brink is also prone to foul trouble.

UConn keys: UConn will need to hit 3s, stretching the defense and negating Stanford's height advantage,

Players to watch: All eyes on Bueckers, now that she has rediscovered the ability for taking over a game.

About Stanford's coach: Tara VanDerveer, 68, from Melrose, Massachusetts, has been a Division I head coach since 1978, leading Idaho, Ohio State, and, since 1985, Stanford, winning championships in 1990, 1992 and 2021. She has an overall record of 1,153-258, including 60-23 in NCAA Tournament games.

About Stanford's mascot: Its teams are known as the Cardinal (no 's'), because it refers to the shade of red, not the bird. The mascot is a larger-than-life tree. The campus is lined with beautiful tall trees.

Famous alumni: President Herbert and First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, Super Bowl quarterbacks John Elway and Jim Plunkett, Hall of Famer pitcher Mike Mussina, Nike co-founder Phil Knight and Frank Cady, better known on TV as Green Acres storekeeper Sam Drucker..

Dom Amore contributed to this story. Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com. Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.

Stanford

from Page 1

semifinal on Friday night at 9:30. VanDerveer is well aware of UConn's strengths and weaknesses, despite not playing the Huskies this season.

"Paige Bueckers is a really talented player," she said. "She is not a one-dimensional or what I'd say is a one-trick pony. She has a great skill set. She's a tremendous passer, scorer. I think she can do it all."

"At this level on every team, you have those kind of players, so you just have to work as hard as you can not to let her do what she really likes to do. You're not going to get here without having a balanced team. So they have everything that you need: Paige; Azzi Fudd is a great shooter; Christyn Williams, No. 1 player in the country coming out of high school; three of their perimeter players are the No. 1 players in the country."

"They're skilled. They're talented. They play well together. Inside they've got [Olivia Nelson-] Ododa, they've got [Aaliyah] Edwards, they're physical, they rebound. It's always a total package at this point. It's not one player."

Auriemma weighs in on spending disparities

Geno Auriemma was asked about the disparity in spending on men's sports vs. women's, including at UConn.

"Well, the issue at UConn, that's my decision," Auriemma said. "It costs more for the men to travel. They take more people on their trips. Plain and simple. They take more trips to go recruiting than I do. ... The numbers are misleading because at UConn I can do whatever I want to do with my program, the same as the men. And as a matter of fact, our ticket prices are going to reflect that starting next season."

Bueckers' latest NIL deal

Paige Bueckers, in her latest name-image-likeness endeavor, has signed up to help solve the growing problem of food insecurity among students.

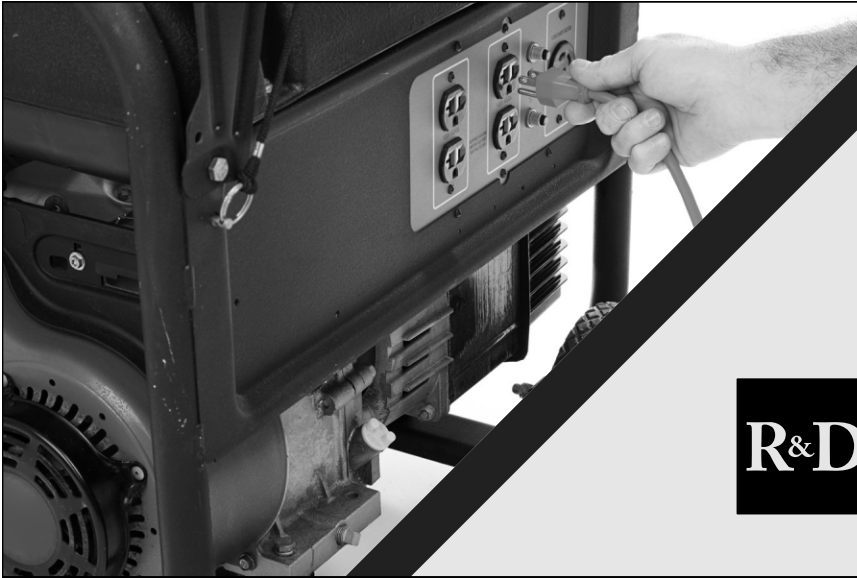
"I am really lucky to have grown up with food on the table," Bueckers told ESPN. "Today I want to make sure I am sharing the opportunities I get and the resources I have with others who might need a hand. I have a lot of privilege and my responsibility to share."

Lobo familiar with the locale

ESPN analyst Rebecca Lobo has a lot of history with the state of Minnesota. Not only did UConn win its first national championship in Minneapolis with her, her husband, Steve Rushin, is from Bloomington, Minnesota, and they vacation there every summer with their families. She has also been to the Target Center to cover the Minnesota Lynx for ESPN.


"Oh, yeah, I love it here. I have some incredible memories from here, starting with the [1995 Final Four]. That was a life-changing weekend for me. If we don't win that game, my life is completely different. I probably wouldn't be doing this. And now I have the family ties to Minnesota."

Other Lobo memories from the 1995 Final Four: "Every time I see Dee Kantner, the ref who gave me my third foul, I bring it up to her. I remember Jamelle [Elliott] and Carla [Berube] holding the fort down [in the first half]. Jen [Rizzotti]'s steal. Then looking up and seeing the ticks going off the clock and knowing at this point, there's no mathematical way Tennessee can win this game. It was ecstasy."



Safety Tip of the Day

Never use a generator in an attached garage, basement, enclosed patio, or near any air intakes. Generators produce hazardous levels of carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless and deadly gas.



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NCAA WOMEN’S TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR

ROUNDTABLE

Can UConn take down defending champ Stanford?

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

MINNEAPOLIS — The UConn women’s basketball team is back in its 14th consecutive Final Four and just two wins away from bringing home its 12th national championship.

The Huskies will face a tough test against a familiar foe in the Final Four — defending champion Stanford. The Courant’s Dom Amore and Lori Riley, Associated Press basketball writer Doug Feinberg, former UConn great and ESPN analyst Rebecca Lobo and ESPN reporter Holly Rowe discuss what players will be key to a UConn victory, how the Huskies bounce back after Monday’s double-over-time Elite Eight victory over NC State, predictions for Friday night’s matchup and more.

How does UConn bounce back from the double OT win over NC State and the tight turnaround to the Final Four?
Holly Rowe, ESPN: They’re young, and kids are so resilient. [UConn coach] Geno Auriemma has been vocal with us as we try to make the tournament more fair, that building in more rest days for the women would be more fair. Watching this practice [Thursday] is going to tell me a lot.

Dom Amore, Hartford Courant: They’re young folks, so the physical toll of what they have been through is probably less a factor than the mental, emotional toll. It was mentally draining to WATCH that game, so it probably took some time to recover. I would say, though, that four days is enough, and they did the right thing flying here and settling in on Tuesday.

Rebecca Lobo, ESPN: I’m wondering about that, even physically. They and Louisville have the shortest turnaround. How are they physically going to feel, emotionally going to feel? You’re on such a high. But they know how to do it, they know to recover.

Doug Feinberg, Associated Press basketball writer: I think Geno said this, the men have five days to recover and the women have less because their games were a day later and the Final Four was a day earlier. But we’re talking about 18-22-year-old kids. When I was that

young and I played ball a lot — not at that level — I could play every day in a row and be thrilled. I think from the youth standpoint, they’ll be fine. I think the excitement and the adrenaline factor will also help. They’re at a real Final Four. Last year was a Final Four but it wasn’t really in a sense, there was no crowd, no energy. Paige [Bueckers] is coming home. There’s the extra juice, which could be good or bad.”

Lori Riley, Hartford Courant: It is a tight turnaround, especially with the draining double OT game Monday. I think the emotional toll of losing Dorka Juhász to injury and leaving her behind might be a little tougher mentally for the players. But they are young, as people have noted, so they should be OK physically.

How does UConn rebound from the loss of Juhász? Will the Huskies’ experience dealing with injuries this season help them adjust?
Rowe: I think it narrows their margin for error in a dramatic fashion. How many times this year we’ve said if Olivia Nelson-Ododa doesn’t get in foul trouble, they can win? Their bigs cannot get in foul trouble or they won’t win this game. It puts a lot of pressure on Olivia and Aaliyah [Edwards] to play smart and stay tough and aggressive. I think there’s an emotional component to it. I talked to Paige Bueckers [about Juhász] and she dissolved into tears. They’re so sad for their teammate. It’s been a hard year, and it’s one more blow.

Amore: This is a significant loss because a key strength for UConn against these better teams is having several frontcourt players. It nearly cost them the game against NC State because Dorka had been playing well when she got hurt, and ONO and Edwards got into foul trouble later. In fact, Geno mentioned that when Dorka came from Ohio State, he thought she would be a difference-maker in games like this. So it hurts.

Lobo: Geno has said, “We’re going against the longest team in the country and we lose our longest player. She was playing so incredibly well in that game. But this is the story of their season. People have gone down, others have stepped up.

Feinberg: I think they can handle it because they’ve had to handle it



UConn’s Paige Bueckers, center, talks to teammates during a break in the Bridgeport Regional final against North Carolina State on Monday at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport. UConn will play Stanford in the national semifinal tonight in Minneapolis. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

all year with everyone going down or out with COVID. Mentally, they can handle adjusting to not having another person there that they normally would have. The matchup isn’t great for them because Stanford is so long, so tall, so big that you probably need a third big knowing that Olivia and Aaliyah get in foul trouble every game, it seems, at least one of them. Having that third big off the bench, they don’t have that. I think Evina [Westbrook] did a pretty good job after Dorka went out playing a bigger role. But Stanford’s bigs are really big and it will be tougher to do the same thing that she did against NC State.

Riley: This is tough because even though she only played three minutes Monday, she was making a big difference when she went down, and UConn sure could use her against Stanford’s bigs and depth Friday.

What are the keys to a UConn victory?
Feinberg: They have to shoot well. They have to be able to hit outside shots. They need [Azzi] Fudd and Bueckers to play the way they played in the NC State game for the entire game and hit outside shots and make Stanford come out and play them further out. Their bigs need to stay out of foul trouble. If both Olivia and Aaliyah get in foul trouble against a really deep talented group of bigs, UConn’s going to have to

figure something out to stop them offensively, and that could be a problem.

Rowe: They have to be in the right spots in the right time. When they’re running their stuff the way Geno has it set up, they’re really good. When they make mistakes — this is still a very young inexperienced team — Azzi Fudd, you should look up how many basketball games did she even play in the last two years because of COVID and her high school season being delayed ... but they are wildly talented and wildly connected because of all the adversity they’ve been through. Just hit shots. When Christyn Williams is aggressive and hits shots, that team is different. Also, Geno says they’re good right now and they’re here right now because in the last month their defense is something they can rely on.

Amore: Great teams need their great players to step up and make big plays in big games. We saw that when Bueckers, Fudd and Williams came up big Monday night. UConn needs them to do it again ... and again.

Lobo: The bigs staying out of foul trouble is hugely important. I think it’s going to be a great game. I don’t think you look at it and say this team has an incredible advantage. Stanford has great depth. UConn doesn’t have great depth in the post anymore. The three guards have to continue to make big plays and score and do their thing.

Riley: Bueckers and Fudd hitting their shots early in the game and setting the tone and keeping Stanford’s defensive focus on them and taking some of the attention away from the post players.

Which UConn player will pose the biggest challenge for Stanford?
Feinberg: Paige is the obvious answer. She was the best player in the country last year and looked like the best player for the last 30 minutes the other night. I think [Evina] Westbrook might be a key for them. She didn’t shoot well vs. NC State but she can hit outside shots and that will free things up.

Rowe: Stanford doesn’t get in their head about UConn. This is a program that has beaten them before. They snapped streaks before. Stanford is so supremely confident. They won it last year with basically the same

group. I think they’re unbothered, in a beautiful carefree know-they’re-good, type of way.

Lobo: Paige and Azzi. Tara [VanDerveer] always has a great scouting report. They know how to neutralize certain players, but it’s really hard to neutralize Paige and Azzi.

Amore: UConn had a miserable night from behind the arc yet still beat NC State. The potential UConn has to dominate here, though, is their ability to shoot the 3. Geno hates taking Fudd out because she has the ability to blow a game open with 3s. Bueckers and Williams can shoot 3s, too. The biggest threat UConn poses is this ability to stretch the floor, making Stanford go out and guard the perimeter.

Riley: Bueckers. As she goes, so go the Huskies at this point in the tournament.

Give us some predictions for the Final Four.
Feinberg: I picked Stanford and South Carolina in my bracket three weeks ago in the finals and Stanford to beat South Carolina in the championship. But I was more impressed with the way UConn played the other night because Paige looked like Paige. It’s wrong for me to change what I picked three weeks ago, so I have to say Stanford’s going to beat UConn. But I’m less confident in that now having watched UConn play in the last two games.

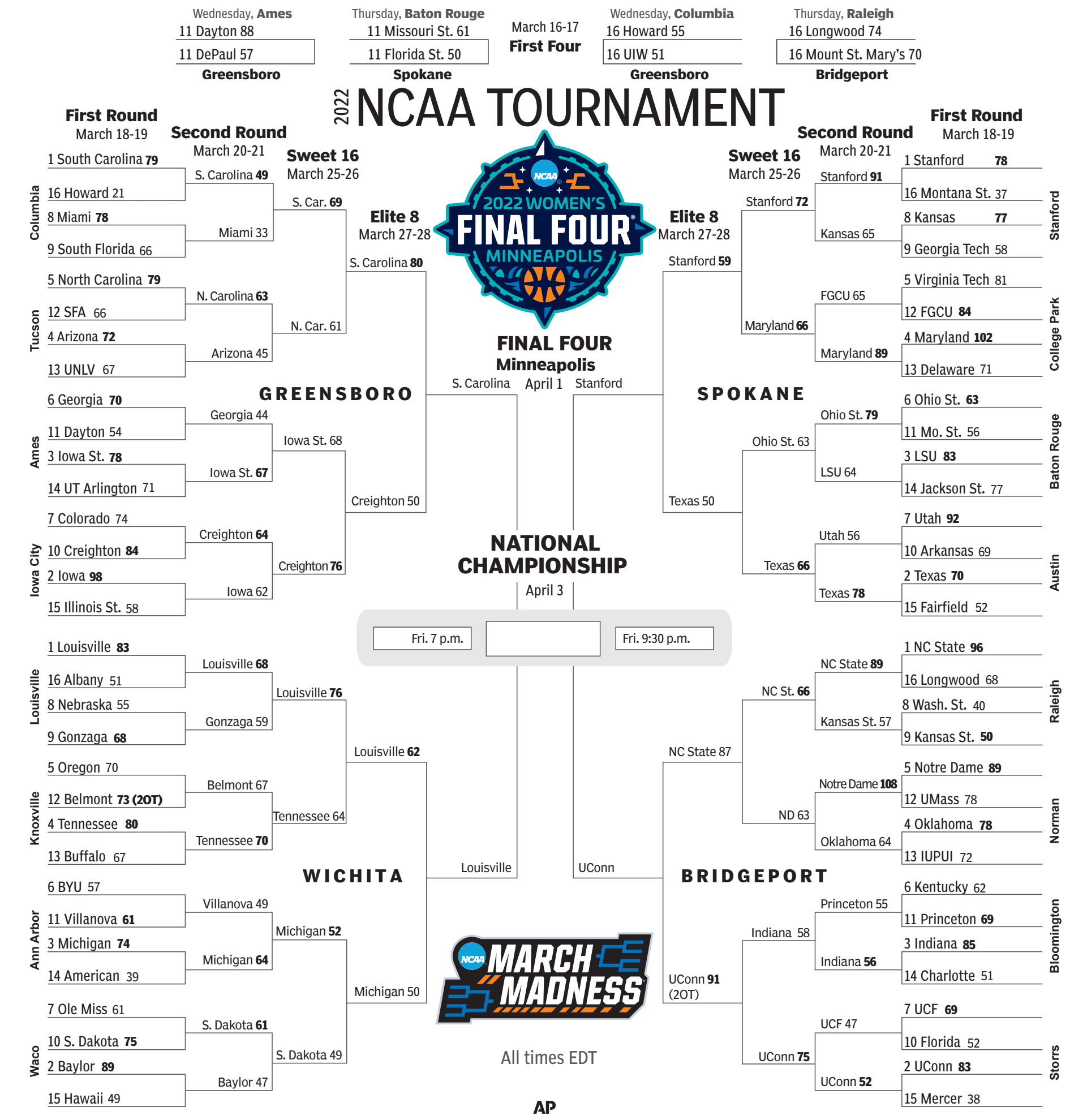
Amore: I’m going with UConn. All four teams are talented and experienced enough to win it. but I feel like the Huskies have caught a second wind with Bueckers breaking through last game. They now have more or less the team they expected to have, so you can throw out their five losses, they’re ready to take a title that is up for grabs.

Rowe: I never make predictions because I think it biases my reporting because the ego wants to be right.

Lobo: I think Stanford-UConn will be tight and go down to the wire.




Riley: Probably won’t be an 87-60 UConn victory like it was in 1995. Stanford has a lot of confidence and is the defending national champion, but like Williams said Monday, UConn has Paige and they don’t.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.



WEATHER

FRIDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Chance for a few morning showers, becoming a mixture of clouds and sun, a shower is possible, breezy and mild.

HIGH 56°
LOW 33°

SATURDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and breezy in the morning.

HIGH 55°
LOW 35°

SUNDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Cloudy with periods of rain developing.

HIGH 49°
LOW 36°

MONDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and seasonable.

HIGH 56°
LOW 36°

TUESDAY







SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness and mild.

HIGH 58°
LOW 43°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

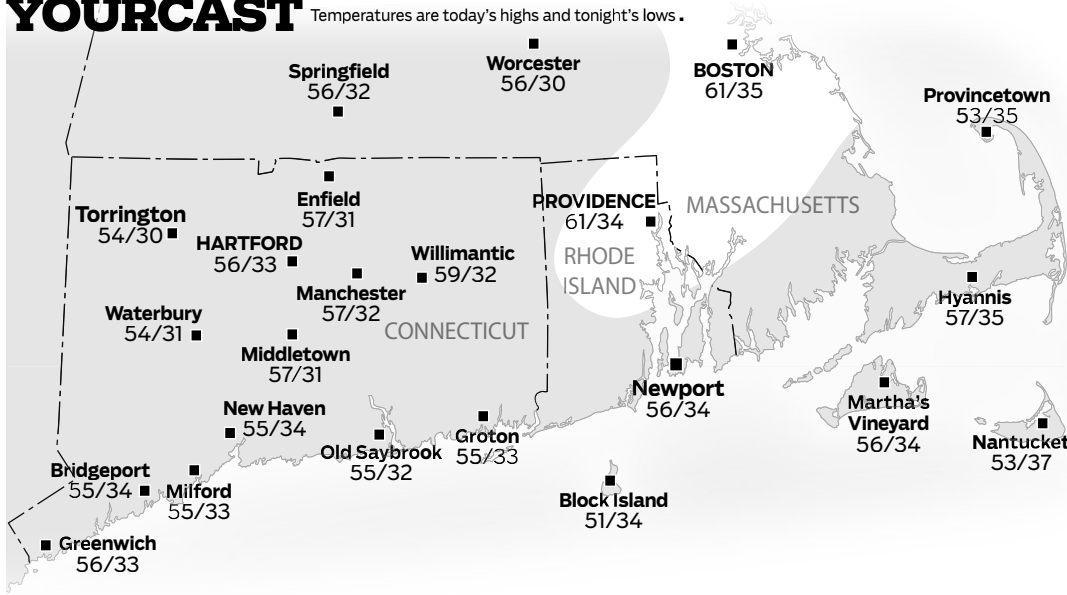
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

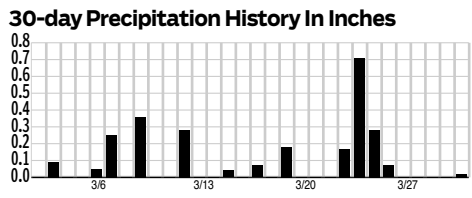
A departing frontal system will cause some lingering morning clouds on Friday with the chance for some showers, then there will be a mixture of clouds and sunshine and the chance for an afternoon shower or sprinkle. It will be a breezy day with west winds at 10 to 20 mph. It will be partly cloudy overnight. Saturday will be the pick of the weekend days with a mostly sunny sky and high temperatures in the 50s. Sunday will start off dry, but periods of rain will overspread the state midday and it will continue into the evening hours. Partly sunny skies will return to the region on Monday.

-Gary Lessor

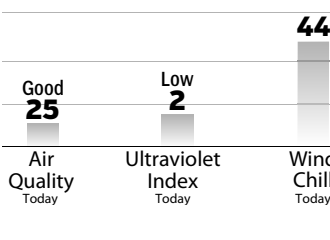
ALMANAC

| Precipitation In Inches | Total | Normal |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| Yesterday (by 7 p.m.) | 0.02 | 0.12 |
| Month to date | 2.65 | 3.81 |
| Total this year | 8.96 | 10.22 |
| Snowfall In Inches | Total | Normal |
| Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Total this year | 31.5 | 50.6 |

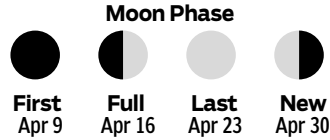
Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Air Quality Forecast For Today



| | Today | Tomorrow |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sunrise | 6:34 a.m. | 6:33 a.m. |
| Sunset | 7:15 p.m. | 7:16 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 7:00 a.m. | 7:22 a.m. |
| Moonset | 7:52 p.m. | 8:58 p.m. |

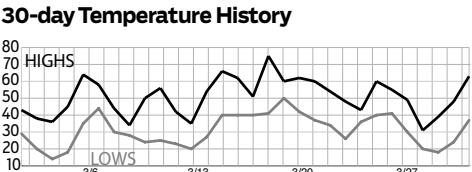


| Tides | High | Low | Temp. |
|---|------------|-----------|-------|
| N.L. State Pier | 10:14 a.m. | 4:31 a.m. | 44° |
| Saybrook Jetty | 10:34 p.m. | 4:41 p.m. | |
| | 11:25 a.m. | 5:24 a.m. | |
| | 11:45 p.m. | 5:34 p.m. | |
| Connecticut River at Portland | 1:45 a.m. | 9:10 a.m. | |
| Madison | 2:08 p.m. | 9:20 p.m. | |
| | 11:52 a.m. | 5:41 a.m. | 43° |
| | p.m. | 5:55 p.m. | |
| New Haven | a.m. | 6:05 a.m. | 43° |
| | 12:12 p.m. | 6:19 p.m. | |
| Stamford | | 6:19 a.m. | 42° |
| | 12:16 p.m. | 6:33 p.m. | |
| River Stage at Hartford: 7.52 feet at 6:30 p.m. | | | |

| Boating Weather | L.I. Sound W | L.I. Sound E | B.I. Sound |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Weather | VCloudy | Showers | Showers |
| Wind | W, 10-15 | W, 10-20 | W, 10-20 |
| Seas | 1-3 ft. | 1-3 ft. | 6-9 ft. |

| Temperature | High | Low |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Thursday | 63 at 3:59 p.m. | 37 at 6:50 a.m. |
| Normal for date | 53 | 33 |
| Record for date | 89 in 1998 | 13 in 1923 |
| A year ago | 65 | 42 |
| Range this year | 76 | -2 |

| Heating Degree Days | Season | Normal | Last Season |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| For July 1 - March 31 | 4737 | 5181 | 4820 |



| Atmosphere | High | Low |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Barometer | 30.00 at 12 a.m. | 29.53 at 7 p.m. |
| Dew point | 55° at 5 p.m. | 21° at 12 a.m. |

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Peacocks applaud Holloway at Seton Hall introduction

Associated Press

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Having coach Shaheen Holloway get the head coaching job at Seton Hall wasn't a surprise at all.

The Pirates' career assists leader and star of the college coaching scene after taking Cinderella Saint Peter's to the Elite Eight, was the only person athletic director Bryan Felt considered after Kevin Willard left for the Maryland job 10 days ago.

If there was a surprise Thursday as Holloway was introduced in a tiny Walsh Gymnasium crowd of about 1,000 people, the 15 players from his uplifting Saint Peter's team were in the audience to applaud him.

"It says a lot about Shaheen," Felt said of the Peacocks being there to celebrate their former coach. "It says a lot about him. It says a lot. What he pours in, he gets back."

This marked the second time Felt has hired Holloway. He was the Saint Peter's athletic director when Holloway was hired in 2018. Felt took the Seton Hall job in 2019 and hired Holloway again on Wednesday.

NCAA TOURNAMENT NOTES

Each team heavily recruits talent in their backyards

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The four blueblood programs that have descended upon the Superdome for the Final Four all have the ability to recruit on a national scale, their coaches able to hop aboard a jet on a moment's notice to sit in a living room or take in a game.

Turns out some of their best players were in their own backyard.

All-American guard Ochai Agbaji grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, before heading about 20 minutes west on Interstate 70 to become a

star for Kansas, which faces Villanova in the first national semifinal Saturday night. His running mate, Christian Braun, grew up in southeast Kansas but also played his high school ball in suburban Kansas City.

Two-time Big East player of the year Collin Gillespie, who has Wildcats coach Jay Wright eyeing a third national title, also played his high school ball about 20 minutes from campus at Archbishop Wood in suburban Philadelphia. Eric Dixon grew up in nearby Willow Grove and Chris Arcidiacono in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

There are hometown connections in the second semifinal between Duke and North Carolina, too, and those might produce a little extra motivation given that their rival campuses famously lie just 10 miles apart.

Justin McKoy, who played the entire overtime in the Tar Heels' upset of No. 1 seed Baylor, grew up 30 minutes away in Raleigh. Duke captain Joey Baker only moved about 90 minutes north of his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

One-on-one: Three years ago, Caleb Samuels had

made the decision to transfer from Tulane and was taking a visit to Villanova, where Gillespie and another hometown player, Dhamir Cosby-Roundtree, were given the job of showing him around.

Some of the coaches asked if they would have a little shooting competition and, well, one thing led to another.

"We're two competitive guys. It turned into one-on-one," Gillespie recalled Thursday, "and he got up on me like, 13-0, and I was scared. I was nervous. I was like, who is this kid? Because I hadn't heard of him before."

NCAA

Emmert: Progress in equality, but revenue distribution talks are only 'preliminary'

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A year after glaring inequities were revealed at the women's NCAA Tournament and less than two weeks after sharp criticism from Congress, NCAA President Mark Emmert declared Wednesday that he was happy with the institution's progress. He said, however, there has been only "preliminary discussions" about distributing tournament revenues to women's programs.

Emmert said the work ahead includes negotiating a new television contract for the women's tournament and potentially having a similar revenue distribution protocol as the men's event.

Emmert was careful not to call for specific changes ahead of discussions by the NCAA's hundreds of member schools, and he declined to offer his own viewpoint.

"It's up to the schools and what they want to do in that regard," he said at the site of the women's Final Four in Minneapolis. "It's a complicated relationship because the championships on the men's side, the relative weight of moving forward in the tournament has been diminished over time. Those in the membership who think there shouldn't be that much emphasis on winning in the tournament."

Sending money to the women's programs is something coaches have been clamoring for. Men's conferences receive hundreds of thousands of dollars per tournament game involving one of their teams, money they then redistribute to schools. There's no such system on the women's side.

Emmert said adopting such a payment structure won't be a quick fix and will require approval from several NCAA committees.

"There's really only just preliminary discussions about it," he said. "I would hope those are decisions that can be made within the next calendar year, for example. If by this time next year there's some notion of a direction to go in, that would be great."

Emmert said that wouldn't mean it could be implemented immediately.

"There's no reason why they couldn't start that debate and that discussion," he said. "But it is a very challenging debate among the schools. Once you start talking about how you're going to divide resources, then those are difficult."

It's easier to pay the men thanks to the NCAA's deal with CBS and Turner. The original contract averaged \$770 million per year with an extension in 2016 jumping that per-year average to \$1.1 billion in 2025.

The women's tournament currently is bundled with other women's championships for TV rights. The current contract with ESPN is up in 2024. ESPN is giving each game in this tournament its own window on one of its channels, with four games on ABC for a second straight year.

"It's obviously in everyone in college sports' best interests to maximize a revenue that you can produce from media contracts, while recognizing you want to balance that with making sure you get the right coverage, too," Emmert said. "So it's not just about money, of course."

A law firm hired to review gender equity issues at NCAA championship events outlined differences between the men's and women's events in a scathing report last summer. That came after 2021 social media posts, most notably that of Oregon forward Sedona Prince, exposed some of the glaring inequities.